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Where do you intend to celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

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DPH: Close to 300 flu cases

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Close to 300 cases of influenza-like illnesses were admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room within a three-week period, highlighting the unusual spike in the number of flu cases this early in the flu season. **See DPH on Page 4**

Lack of doctors closes Children's Clinic

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health has closed its Children's Clinic due to the lack of physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center.

In an advisory sent Friday by the office of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, he said some nursing services usually done at the Children's Clinic will be temporarily performed at the Family Care Clinic.

See LACK OF on Page 4



LUNCH TREAT

Congregates at the Aging Center pose with CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan after enjoying their Thanksgiving lunch treat provided by the congressman on Friday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 4

Over \$4K owed for 'unofficial' SHEFA deals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance program owes three vendors \$4,120 in "unofficial" transactions, as discovered by its new board of directors at a special meeting Friday.

SHEFA's debt is broken down as follows: \$2,450 for the production of an annual report; \$1,500 as payment for the legal service of a private company; and \$170 for the production of the office's new letterhead.

Board member Maggie Camacho said that, although the previous board had approved in concept the production of the annual report, it was with the condition that the material will be produced at a minimal cost and will be in black-and-white format to save on cost.

It was learned, however, that over 100 **See SHEFA on Page 4**

Confirmation of Fitial appointees back on track

» **Compromise reached on nominations to EAGI**

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Following months with no confirmations, the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations

Committee appears ready to act on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's nominations after a compromise was apparently reached last week between the Fitial administration and the Senate.

The EAGI, chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), has failed to act on recent nominees for government agencies and commissions, resulting in the

governor pulling out his recommendations before the 90-day period lapsed, which would have made nominees ineligible for re-nomination.

"I believe in our meeting with acting governor Eloy Inos last week that there was an understanding that nominees will be coming soon so long as we get

See APPOINTEES on Page 4

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IF CUC FAILS TO DO IMMEDIATE OIL CLEANUP

EPA warns it may be forced to take action

» **CUC cites test showing no oil seeping into ocean**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has warned the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that EPA may need to take action to "protect the waters of the United States" if CUC cannot immediately clean up the oil contamination at the two power plants in Lower Base.

CUC, however, disclosed that recent testing of the areas for which EPA has expressed concern shows that no oil is seeping into the ocean.

CUC says it began implementing the cleanup work plan at Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base on Sept. 22, 2010.

In the U.S. second status report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday, Bradley R. O'Brien, counsel for EPA, said that EPA filed a letter with the clerk of the federal court, raising concerns about the implementation of CUC's workplan.

Specifically, O'Brien said, CUC began subsurface investigation and sampling at the two power plants.

"This investigation revealed the extensive presence of oil (diesel and heavy oils) in the groundwater beneath and around the facility, including contamination very close to the shoreline," he said.

The EPA, O'Brien said, is extremely concerned about ongoing and potential future discharges of oil directly to waters of the United States in violation of Sections 309 and 311 of the Clean Water Act.

O'Brien said pursuant to provisions of the court's order, EPA is discussing with CUC options for addressing potential ongoing oil discharges and preventing continued migration of contaminants into the waters.

Deborah E. Fisher, counsel for CUC, in a Tuesday letter addressed to the court, O'Brien, and Attorney General Edward Buckingham, pointed out that EPA and the U.S. Coast Guard

recently inspected Power Plants 1 and 2 and found no sheen on any of the ocean waters that border the two power plants.

Fisher said CUC has learned that soil samples taken at the beach indicate organic material, not oil.

"CUC acknowledges that there is oil contamination in the soil farther inland, and the test boring sites do show a sheen," she said.

It appears, however, that an impermeable clay soil acts as a barrier, preventing oil migration to the ocean at this time, Fisher said.

"As a result, there is no immediate danger of any oil reaching the ocean. CUC plans to take all measures necessary to clean Power Plants 1 and 2," Fisher said.

In CUC's second status report filed in court on Nov. 13, 2010, Fisher said CUC is confident that the implementation of the workplan will be completed on schedule.

She said EPA, through its on-scene coordinator, has been monitoring the cleanup to ensure that the project and the quality of the sampling protocol are maintained.

Fisher said samples have been sent to an EPA-approved laboratory in California.

She said the contractor has installed 13 monitoring wells as of Nov. 9, 2010.

The only concern on this project, Fisher said, is that the drill supplies were ordered late and shipping problems may delay the program.

"Plans are in place to ensure the fieldwork/testing will meet the deadline of Jan. 30, 2011," she added.

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Hofschneider quits as NMC chief financial officer

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College lost another key management official after Henry Hofschneider resigned from his position as the college's chief financial and administrative officer.

Hofschneider last reported for work on Friday, during which his departure was shared with the college community.

Saipan Tribune learned that

Faisao: PSS unwilling to provide a teacher for juvenile detainees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao said the lack of cooperation of the Public School System is forcing him to seek funding sources to tap so he could provide educational services for detainees at the Kagman Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facility.

In a declaration he issued Monday, Faisao said the Juvenile Detention Unit currently does not have a teacher for its detainees because PSS has been unable or unwilling to give them one despite all his efforts to urge them to "live up to their statutory duty."

"In the absence of cooperation from the PSS, I have no choice but seek an alternative source for educational services," Faisao said.

Faisao issued the declaration Monday in his bid to have the case filed against him by the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. dismissed. The Office of the Attorney General filed the declaration in the U.S. District Court for the NMI the following day.

NMPASI is suing Faisao after the Juvenile Detention Unit al-

legedly denied the agency full and timely access to the facility. NMPASI claims it has one client at the facility that had asked for its services.

NMPASI wants the federal court to rule that Faisao's policies, regulations, and practices in denying access to the facility and its residents violate the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1991, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and the Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights Act.

In his declaration, Faisao said he has initiated discussions with the Fitial administration to give him authority and funding to procure educational services independent of the PSS by way of a request for proposal.

"I anticipate approval in short order," Faisao said.

The Juvenile Detention Unit is under DCCA's supervision, but PSS provides teachers for the detainees as part of a memorandum of agreement that has already expired. Detained juveniles failed to get any instructional services for more than five months starting in September 2009 through February this year.

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Kurapati relocated to Alaska.

Kurapati, however, continued to do contractual work for NMC that ranged from analyzing audit reports, to training an incoming CFO, to reviewing NMC's procurement policies and procedures.

As financial officer, Hofschneider was in charge of several departments including the college's finance office, financial aid office, the human resource office, the administrative services department, as well as the NMC bookstore.

His position was among the key posts cited by the accrediting commission as vital to the operation of the community college.

To date, NMC has also yet to name a new president pending the final interview and selection

of the final candidate.

The college has been without a chief executive officer since

January when the Board of Regents suspended and later fired Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

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Sablan promises to look into man'amko issues

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said Friday that he will look into matters concerning the *man'amko* such as Social Security and federally funded programs affected by austerity measures.

At the Thanksgiving luncheon he provided the *man'amko* on Nov. 26, Sablan said he is working on getting a one-time payment of \$250 to all senior citizens, veterans, and people

with disabilities.

He said this one-time payment will serve as a replacement for cost of living allowance.

"We got that [one-time payment] last year. I haven't gotten it this year but we're working hard to get the money again next year. There's a good number of us in Congress working to try and get them this one-time payment," he said.

Sablan added that he will try to talk or write to Gov. Benigno R. Fi-

tial about what he discussed with the Interior secretary in San Francisco in relation to the federal programs at the Aging Center that are affected by the austerity measures implemented for fiscal year 2011.

The 2011 budget law requires a 16-hour work cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays, so the government could live within the \$132 million in projected revenue available for operations this year.

"Some of the program agencies pro-

viding the grants are concerned that this austerity has actually reduced the services provided and intended for the [Aging Center] program. I'm just as concerned as they are," said Sablan.

Man'amko luncheon

Last Friday's Thanksgiving luncheon for the island's senior citizens was his third so far, according to Sablan.

Sablan was joined by wife Andrea, staff members, and some lawmakers for the Thanksgiving lunch held at the Aging Center.

"We just want to bring the holiday spirits to the *man'amko*... I value

their friendship and support. I always ask them for their prayers, advice, and guidance," he said.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza said the luncheon is a form of gratitude for Sablan's victory and for what he continues to do for all the *man'amko* in the CNMI.

"The *man'amko* are very happy that Congressman Kilili comes here every year and spends time with us," she said.

Aging director Rose Mondala also thanked Sablan for his generosity in hosting a lunch as well as looking into some of the problems affecting the *man'amko*.

APPOINTEES

From Page 1

names of representatives from Tinian," said Senate President Paul Manglona.

Press secretary Angel Demapan acknowledged the compromise deal in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

"The administration was very much concerned about this, but there are signs indicating that the EAGI will resume reviewing and acting on nominations submitted by the governor," he said.

Demapan said that Inos briefly discussed the end of the impasse during a short meeting with the Senate leadership after their meeting with Retirement Fund officials last week.

"Sen. President Manglona had

hinted that the Senate is now ready to resume the nomination process. Lt. Gov. Inos was very pleased to learn that of the 'change of heart' and stated that he and the governor will prepare resubmit the needed executive nominations to the senate for advice and consent," he said.

Manglona, for his part, said the Senate is hoping that whenever future vacancies open up in government agencies and commissions, slots from Tinian will be made available for Tinian representatives.

"I don't believe there is a major issue behind it. Tinian lawmakers are just very concerned that board and commission slots served for Tinian and Rota are not being filled. Slots at the Marianas Visitors Authority, Commonwealth Development Authority, and

Marianas Public Land Trust remain to be filled by representatives from Tinian," he said.

Among Fitial's nominees that were not acted on by the EAGI were Jerry Tan as board member of MVA, Eric Plinske for the Civil Service Commission, Jesus I. Sablan for the Commonwealth Election Commission, and Jerry P. Crisostimo and Nacrina Barcinas for the Retirement Fund.

"Now that the Senate has expressed that it will resume actions on executive appointments, the governor will prepare the nomination packets for transmittal to the Senate. The administration is hopeful that the EAGI and the full body of the upper house will live up to the public's expectations and act on the nominations in a timely manner," said Demapan.

SHEFA

From Page 1

copies of the annual report were produced in color, as ordered by the previous SHEFA management.

"We didn't approve that amount as a board...because we wanted the black-and-white format because it's cheaper. We even asked for only a few copies of the report for the members of the delegation and the board," said Camacho at the meeting.

Acting administrator Jeff Tomokane also reported that the same printing company—Elite Printing—has also asked for payment of \$170 for the new letterheads, as ordered by the previous SHEFA management.

Camacho disclosed that the new letterhead does not include the names of two board members—Camacho and Josephine Sablan. Their membership on the board was earlier questioned by

former chairperson Felicidad Ogumoro and former consultant William Torres.

Members of the board, Camacho said, were not aware of the new order and that the office still has enough supply of letterheads.

Besides the unpaid obligation to Elite, Tomokane also disclosed that the Ramon Quichocho Law Offices recently billed SHEFA \$1,500 for legal services.

But Camacho disclosed that the hiring or seeking of legal opinion on any matter was not discussed nor approved during the previous board. She says she has no idea what constitute the \$1,500 billing.

"We never even discussed the hiring of the law firm or seeking an opinion... we don't know what it's all about," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Quichocho's office provided an opinion to the board such as the legitimacy of the appointment of certain board members.

Camacho said that SHEFA could always seek the Attorney General's Office and the mayor's office for legal assistance if the need arises.

"But at this time, we cannot afford to hire a legal counsel because we don't have the money to do that," she said. "All these items were never discussed and approved by the board and these are not budgeted."

Camacho asked Tomokane to further review the transactions and if these were done in accordance with procurement and supply regulations.

Based, however, on the new board's initial review, the transactions lack proper purchase orders or purchase requisitions.

When asked if they will approve payments for the three unofficial board transactions, the board members said they would leave this up to the new chairman, Joe C. Mafnas, to decide.

As of Friday, however, no payment plan for the vendors was approved.

island. "Our effort was a positive one where we vaccinated 64 percent of the students," Diaz said.

She said the department began vaccinating elementary school students last week and will continue the campaign next week.

Vaccines are also being distributed in clinics such as Pacific Medical Center; Medical Associates of the Pacific; Marianas Medical Center; Saipan Health Clinic; Tinian Health Center; and Rota Health Center.

Individuals who have increased risks of developing complications from the flu and are considered "high priority" for vaccination include children between the ages of 6 months and 4 years old; adults over 50 years; those suffering from chronic diseases such as people on dialysis, with asthma, diabetes, heart failure and others; health care personnel; those who care for the very young, very old and/or the very sick; pregnant women; and individuals who are morbidly obese.

this year. From the usual five or more flu patients being seen daily at the hospital's emergency room, the number has doubled, with patients from across all age brackets.

Initial assessment of cases shows a slight predominance among children.

DPH officials reiterated that getting vaccinated is the single best way to protect against the flu and an important step in minimizing the risk and severity of flu infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided the CNMI 18,000 doses of flu vaccines. As of last week, DPH said they still have about 16,000 shots available.

Diaz said about 1,126 individuals have already been vaccinated with the trivalent flu vaccine between Oct. 14 and Nov. 23. These are only those who were vaccinated by the DPH and do not include those who got their shots from private clinics.

Early this month, DPH did a vaccination drive at all Head Start centers on

CSC impasse

Of the agencies that awaited confirmations of nominees from the Senate, the Civil Service Commission was hit hard the most.

Personnel policy specialist Andrew Orsini said the EAGI's inaction on Plinske's nominations resulted in the commission not having a quorum for several months.

He said the commission as presently constituted only has four board members: Felix Fitial, Rita Kukkun, Leonard Calvo, and chair Dan Nielsen.

Orsini said the CNMI Constitution mandates a seven-person board but since they only have four members, the commission has failed to fully function because it lacks a quorum.

Orsini, for instance, said the lack of quorum has defanged the civil service's responsibility to officially rule on grievances by government employees, leaving the courts to decide on the matter, which has resulted in more costs to civil servants.

Plinske said he is fine with what the governor ultimately decides at the end—whether to nominate him again or chose a more worthy board member from Tinian.

LACK OF

From Page 1

These limited nursing services include suture removal, dressing changes, Bicillin shots, and intravenous immunoglobulin.

DPH said patients and community members are advised to make an appointment for these services starting this week.

"Services are by appointment only and starting the week of Dec. 6, appointments will be available every Tuesday and Thursday," said Villagomez in his advisory.

The advisory also encouraged the public to contact Family Care Clinic at 234-8950 for appointments and other concerns.

Saipan Tribune confirmed that the closure was due to the shortage of physicians.

"The pediatric department is down to three pediatricians and that is only adequate for staffing the hospital [inpatient and emergency on-call]," said Esther Muña, DPH acting deputy secretary, in an email.

Muña assured that the department is addressing the hospital's staffing concerns. Once the more doctors are hired, the Children's Clinic will re-open.

"We are aggressively recruiting and hope to have an adequate number to re-open the clinic by early next year," added Muña.

Saipan Tribune learned DPH currently has 24 physicians and over 200 nursing employees.

Based on the fiscal year 2011 bud-

get, CHC is approved to hire a total of 380 personnel, including doctors and nurses. This is far lower than the 526 that CHC had in fiscal year 2005.

As of September, the hospital was short of nine physicians, a pharmacist, and a psychiatrist.

The emergency room currently has four doctors and needs two more. Once two doctors are hired, one of them will be moved to another post while one will complete the five-member slate needed at the unit.

Pediatrics has two physicians right now, one of whom is a locum, or short-term hire; CHC needs to hire three more for the unit.

The internal medicine unit also needs two more doctors. The section currently has five physicians, one of whom is a locum.

CHC is also short of one surgeon and one anesthesiologist.

Although the hospital already has two pharmacists, it still needs one more for the section.

The Department of Public Health was recently approved a J1 Conrad 30 visa waiver designation. This is expected to help address the staffing needs at the hospital.

The J-1 visa is for foreign nationals to come to the U.S. to do residency training. After completing his/her residency program, under the requirements of the J-1 visa, the MD needs to return to his/her country of origin for two years. The waiver will allow these foreign physicians to immediately work in a J1 Conrad 30 visa waiver designated hospital without exiting the U.S. first.

Manglona: Medical marijuana use open to abuse

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

If and when Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind.-Saipan) introduces a medical marijuana bill in the House of Representatives, the Senate can be expected to once again vote it down, according to Senate President Paul Manglona.

More than a week after the upper chamber voted no to the

controversial bill decriminalizing cannabis use for all purposes in the CNMI, Manglona continues to be adamant in his opposition to the schedule 1 drug—even if its use is limited for medicinal purposes only.

“Even for medical marijuana. Anything to do with marijuana I’m opposed to. It would mean easy access to our children and the youth,” he said.

The Senate president said

he recently talked to a person from the U.S. mainland who did some experiments on medical marijuana and he said his conversation with him confirmed what Manglona had feared all along—that medical marijuana is open to abuse.

“This local person told me that even those that were not issued permits for medical marijuana obtained the drug. It’s just easy to obtain. The

risks just far outweigh the benefits...even it’s for medical use. No compromise on cannabis use whether it is for all purposes or for medicinal use,” he said.

In an earlier report, Torres said he will introduce a medical marijuana bill if the Senate thumbs down his original cannabis for all purposes measure.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also came out in support of a medi-

cal marijuana measure if the bill gets the nod of the Senate. Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan), who abstained in the Nov. 19 voting, also vowed to introduce a medical marijuana bill at the Senate.

Torres’ House Bill 17-47 was killed on a 7-0 vote during a Senate session held at the Northern Marianas College campus on Rota on Nov. 19.

Under federal law, marijuana

remains a Schedule I drug and is illegal to use and possess.

Medical marijuana use is legal in 16 states in the U.S., including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. Maryland allows for reduced penalties if marijuana use has medical basis.

FHB, Guam magazine award scholarship to 3 NMC students

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Three students of the Northern Marianas College on Saipan were among the 10 recipients of the Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program of First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business*.

Hazel Marie B. Doctor, Shannon S. Hofschneider, and Joana Marie P. Palero received their scholarship checks last Nov. 26 at the First Hawaiian Bank Gualo Rai Branch.

A total of \$19,550 worth of scholarships was awarded to 10 students, including four from the University of Guam and three from the Guam Community College.

First Hawaiian Bank vice president and Saipan area manager Juan Lizama, Oleai Branch

manager Victoria Concepcion, and Transpacific International Inc. vice president Stella T. Fong led the check presentation on Friday.

The Businesswoman of the Year Award program promotes higher education by providing financial assistance to students of the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and the Northern Marianas College.

All applicants were required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0, submit a written essay as well as evidence of financial need.

Lizama congratulated the three students, urging them to continue doing their best in their academic learning and eventually become a part of the business community.

“We need more young students to join the business community so we encourage them

to do that through the scholarship program,” he said.

Palero, who received a check for \$1,615, told *Saipan Tribune* that she was happy when she found out that she was chosen as one of the recipients. “I feel like I do deserve it because I really worked hard for it,” said the Business Management and Computer Application major.

Palero, who works as an office assistant handling the PELL Grant, said she will use the money to buy expensive accounting books she needs for school.

Hofschneider said the \$1,615 check is a big help for her expenses in her six remaining classes, especially since she has a 1-year-old son that she supports. “I can use the money for buying accounting books that cost between \$200-300,” said the accounting major.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Three students of the Northern Marianas College receive \$4,750 worth of scholarship as part of the Businesswoman of the Year program of First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business last Nov. 26. From left, NMC financial aid officer Daisy P. Manglona-Propst; NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera; Business Management and Computer Application major Joana Marie P. Palero; Accounting student Shannon S. Hofschneider; Liberal Arts freshman Hazel Marie B. Doctor; Transpacific International Inc. vice president Stella T. Fong; FHB Oleai branch manager Victoria Concepcion; and vice president and Saipan area manager Juan Lizama.

Doctor, a Liberal Arts freshman, said that being chosen gave her a good feeling. “I felt very elated because I honestly thought that it will be highly

competitive in Guam.”

According to Doctor she will keep the money in her savings in case educational expenses like tuition and lab

fees or books arise.

The Businesswoman of the Year scholarship program has awarded a total of \$85,750 since it started in 2006.

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'Too early to know if more work-hour cuts are needed'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Fitial administration said that it's too early to tell if the 16-hour work cuts per pay period

among government employees would stay or increase, more than a month after its Oct. 24 implementation.

"We are just a couple months into the fiscal year. It

is still quite a bit premature to determine a prevailing trend," said press secretary Angel A. Demapan.

A good bet will be to wait for three months to see what the state of the government's coffers are and what savings were realized from the 20-percent work-hour cut on government employees, he added.

"The administration will take a look at the financial figures after the end of the first quarter of fiscal year 2011 to analyze whether the projected resources will be maintained or whether there is a need to cut deeper," said Demapan.



Demapan

The Fitial administration was forced to implement the 16-hour work reduction among civil servants due to plummeting government revenue.

Aside from the work-hour cuts, government employees were also subjected to 13 unpaid holidays to cap government spending at \$132 million for fiscal year 2011.

Exempted from the work-hour cuts and unpaid holidays are critical service employees in the fields of public safety and health care. A number of government officials, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos as well as

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), have already volunteered salary cuts.

Meanwhile, Demapan said he is not sure when the government will release the remaining checks for rebate, refund, and child tax credit.

"The Department of Finance is currently addressing this matter. There is no timeline at this point as disbursement is also heavily dependent on the government financial ability to disburse such funding," he said.

Since July, taxpayers have been asking for their turn to receive their rebate and refund checks.

Fitial routine check-up OK
As scheduled, the governor and

first lady Josie Fitial returned to Saipan on Thanksgiving Day.

The couple attended the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in front of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Friday night.

The two, along with special assistant for administration Esther Fleming and CNMI Military Integration Management Committee chair Tom Linden, came from a 10-day trip to California where they attended the Region 9 Federal Regional Council.

Demapan said Fitial also went through some routine medical check-up with his doctor in California. "There were no major issues or procedures that were required," he said.

OAG delays suit vs firefighter

The Office of the Attorney General has agreed to put off for six months the proceedings in a criminal case against a firefighter who is facing charges of violating a court order that required him to stay away from a former girlfriend.

Assistant attorney general Benjamin K. Petersburg signed a deferred prosecution agreement with defendant Jelani Sablan Tilipao and his counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke. The Superior Court approved the agreement.

Under a deferred prosecution, proceedings in a criminal case are put off for a period of time, subject to certain conditions.

In Tilipao's case, the OAG agreed to dismiss the case with prejudice at a status conference if he has fully complied with all the terms and conditions of the deferred prosecution agreement.

Tilipao agreed to pay a \$1,000 fine within six months. He was also required to pay restitution to the victim in an amount sufficient to replace the victim's apartment door, which was damaged.

The agreement required the defendant to refrain from having any contact with the victim for six months.

Tilipao also has to complete 50 hours of community service. He will be placed on six months of probation.

The status conference will be on May 25, 2011 at 1:30pm.

Then OAG had charged

Tilipao with criminal mischief, criminal contempt, and disturbing the peace.

Despite a court order requiring him to stay away from his former girlfriend and not disturb her and the two children, Tilipao had still gone inside her apartment to take the boots and belt he needed for his work, according to the OAG.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that, according to the victim, she was at a neighbor's house on April 26, 2010 at 9am when she saw Tilipao arrive aboard a Department of Public Safety EMS ambulance that parked in front of her apartment in San Antonio.

The victim said she walked to her apartment and found Tilipao inside the apartment talking to their 6-year-old son.

Tilipao asked the victim to open the children's bedroom door so he could take his working boots and belt.

The victim stated she will, but only if he gives her the children's hospital blue card because her 1-year-old son was sick.

Tilipao later kicked the door open, causing their two children to start crying. He grabbed his boots and belt, walked out of the apartment, and left in the ambulance for work.

The detective said at the time, there was an outstanding court order that required Tilipao to stay away from the victim's residence.

It was not immediately clear if Tilipao is still employed with DPS as a firefighter. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Poker cashier sues employers for alleged unpaid overtimes

A former poker arcade cashier is suing her former employers in federal court for allegedly underpaying her and not paying her overtime.

Levy Dela Cruz sued Islas Marianas Inc. and its manager/director, David Oh, for failure to pay wages required under the Fair Labor Standards Act and breach of contract.

Dela Cruz, through her counsel Bruce Berline, is demanding that she be paid her unpaid overtime, damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Islas Marianas Inc. owns or operates various poker parlors, retail stores, apartments and laundromats on Saipan.

Berline stated in the com-

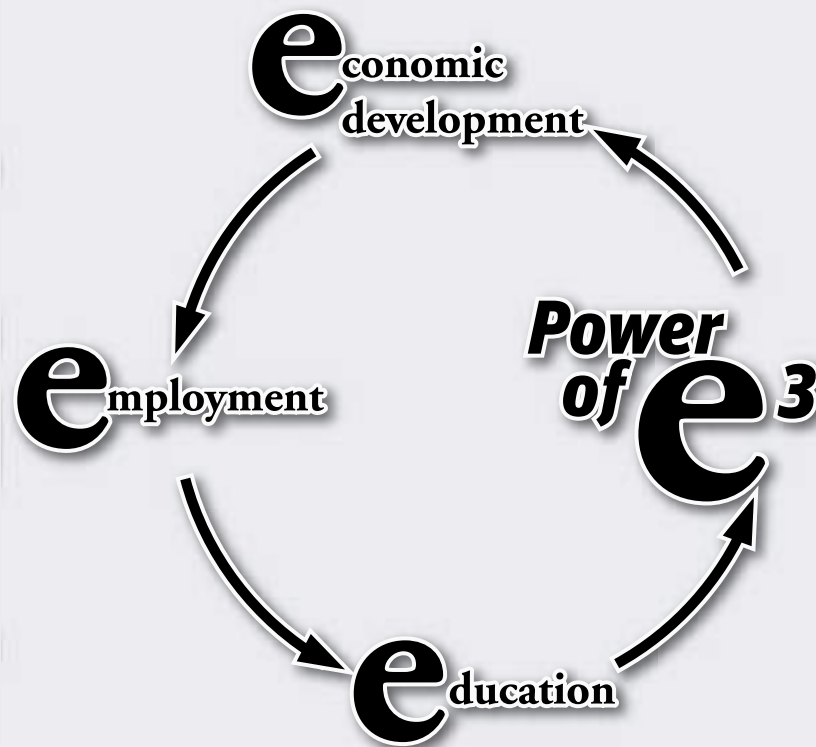
plaint that Dela Cruz primarily worked for Piano Poker in Garapan, where for the most part she worked 12-hour shifts for seven days a week.

He said the defendants paid Dela Cruz \$700 per month from June 1, 2007 to July 31, 2007, and \$800 from Sept. 2, 2007 to April 15, 2008.

"As part of her employment with defendants, plaintiff has been hired to work many workweeks in excess of 40 hours per week," Berline said.

Last week, two cashiers at poker arcades also filed a lawsuit in federal court against the same defendants over the same allegations. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

NOTICE TO CNMI VETERANS



WIA in partnership with the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office and the Guam Department of Labor Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) will be conducting outreach activities to all CNMI veterans as follows.

Presenters: Jackie Nyugen, DVOP Coordinator, Guam Department of labor
Dr. Edward L. Santos, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Schedules:

Rota: November 29-30, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Venue: WIA Rota Office
(please contact WIA Rota Office at 532-1701 to reserve for either session)

Saipan (please contact WIA at 664-1708 / 1757 / 1705 / 1707 to register for either session)

December 01, 2010, WIA Office

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1st session
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 2nd session

December 02, 2010, WIA Office

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon 1st session
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. 2nd session

Tinian: December 3, 2010 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Venue: NMC Tinian Campus

This ad is paid for by federal funds under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Esther Aleta, who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 29! Greetings come from sister Ellen, nephew Christian, niece Savannah, and son Dan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Jenny Dela Cruz, who celebrates her birthday today, Nov. 29! May you enjoy your day and have many more birthdays to come! We miss you! Much love coming out from your entire SHCP 2010 family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



This happy birthday shoutout goes out to Larra Ramos, who is celebrating her birthday today, Nov. 29! May you continue to shine like the star that you are! Hoping you have a great and wonderful day and may you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Much love coming out from all your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy, happy birthday greetings to Darrah Benavente-Tagabuel, who celebrates her birthday today, Nov. 29! Hoping for a fabulous, fantastic, wonderful, and awesomely great day for you! Much love coming out from Junie, Dot, Calvin, and all your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First couple leads tree lighting ceremony

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial officially marked the beginning of the holiday season in the CNMI as they switched on the holiday lights of the Christmas tree and nativity hut during the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Nov. 26.

The First Lady's Vision Foundation and the Office of Women's Affairs spearheaded the construction and decoration of the 30-foot Christmas tree and nativity scene at the parking lot of the Multi-Purpose Center with the help of inmates at the Department of Corrections.

Besides the holiday decorations, the Multi-Purpose Center parking lot was also improved with the repainting of parking stalls.

Fr. Jesse Reyes led the invocation and the blessing of the nativity scene.

In her remarks, Josie Fitial

said the First Lady's Vision Foundation worked with partner agencies, organizations, and individuals to carry on the annual Christmas tree lighting tradition in the face of economic challenges in the Commonwealth.

"As we mark the beginning of the holiday season, I hope that through this illuminated Christmas tree, our people will have a glaring reminder of the joys and tidings of Christmas. I hope that our island's children and families can find the spirit of peace and renewed hope each time they pass by or visit these beautifully lit grounds," she said.

The first lady concluded by thanking all the hard work of their project partners.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial pose with the inmates of the Department of Corrections after the official lighting of the Christmas tree at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe last night.



Boy Scouts partners with Neighborhood Watch, thanks donors

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boy Scouts of America has developed a partnership with the Saipan Neighborhood Watch to work on community projects and activities.

Island director Cal Reyes said it is good to come across a group of adults who can serve as models for boy scouts on Saipan.

"I'm very proud and happy to say that we are partnering with a good organization like the Neighborhood Watch to maintain the stability of the Boy Scouts program," he said.

According to Reyes, their organization has resources to assist the Neighborhood Watch in their various activities.

Reyes said the ideals that the Boy Scouts uphold like character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness for its members will be enhanced through this new partnership.

District chair Jess Muña also extended his appreciation to all individuals, business organizations, and government agencies that provided support and assistance to the CNMI Boy Scouts.

These include J.E. Tenorio Holdings, Bridge Capital, Sal-

vation Army, Herman's Modern Bakery, Joeten Enterprises, Tan Holdings, Foremost, Century Insurance, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Trading Company, Rep. Diego T. Benavente, the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Mayor's Offices, and the Public School System.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officers of the CNMI Boy Scouts of America. From left, district commissioner Wayne Gillespie, district chair Jess Muña, and island director Cal Reyes.



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Teens adrift at sea almost lost hope

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—For more than 50 days, the three boys slurped rainwater that puddled in the bottom of their tiny boat, gobbled flying fish that leaped aboard and prayed for salvation.

Etueni Nasau and his two cousins almost gave up hope they would survive as they bobbed in their aluminum dinghy across the South Pacific for more than seven weeks, before a fishing trawler spotted them by chance and brought an end to their extraordinary ordeal.

"I thank God for keeping us alive all this while, while we were drifting out in open sea," Nasau, 14, told The Associated Press. "We prayed every day that someone will find us and rescue us. We thought we would die."

In a shy, quiet voice, Nasau spoke Saturday from his hospital bed in Fiji, where the trio were

brought a day earlier and quickly treated for dehydration, bad sunburn and malnourishment.

Nasau, also known as Edward, and his two 15-year-old cousins, Samuel Pelesa and Filo Filo, jumped into the 12-foot- (3.5-meter-) long boat, known locally as a "tinnie," sometime in late September—Nasau couldn't remember the date—to make what they thought was a short journey between islands in their archipelago home of Tokelau.

But they ran out of fuel for their outboard motor and began drifting out to sea. As land retreated from sight, they contemplated the handful of coconuts they had brought with them to snack on—and the little else in the boat.

Day after day, the teens sat helpless in the open craft under

a beating tropical sun, scouring the horizon for signs of land or a passing boat.

On many nights, rainstorms churned the sea and lashed the boat. The boys threw themselves to the bottom of the boat, clutching the sides and trying to keep it from capsizing. Though terrifying, the storms also brought a lifeline: puddles of rainwater for them to sip.

They ran out of food all too quickly, and increasingly feared starvation. The sea provided meager pickings in the form of fish that leaped out of the water and sometimes landed in the boat.

"We ate flying fish, very small ones that jump into our boat, about five inches," said Nasau, looking thin and weak, but relieved. "The last time we ate one was last week if I recall."

Once, a bird perched on the boat and Pelesa managed to snatch it with his bare hands. The hungry boys tore at the bird and shared the meat, raw.

"The bird came to our punt and my cousin Sam grabbed it," Nasau said. "We ate it."

In the days before their rescue, the nighttime storms stopped and the boys became desperately thirsty. They began drinking small amounts of sea water.

One night, the boys' hopes for rescue soared when they

spotted lights they thought must be a ship, then plunged again when they realized that they had no light and that those on board would never see them in the dark.

"We saw one big ship at night time but it's too far, we couldn't do anything," Nasau said. "So we just sat down and looked at it" as it passed by.

Last Wednesday, at least 55 days into the boys' ordeal, the deep-sea tuna boat *San Nikuna* came into view on its way to its home port in New Zealand—this time during the day.

First mate Tai Fredricsen said the crew were amazed to see a small boat out so far and in a region rarely used by any vessels. They were even more stunned to see the bedraggled boys frantically waving for help.

They had drifted more than 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) from Tokelau.

Fredricsen took the boys and their little boat on board the trawler, and tried to give them fluids and small pieces of fruit. Officials in Fiji said the boys had so little food and water during their ordeal they would be unable to keep down solid food until their bodies recovered.

The boys have responded quickly to rehydration treatment. Twenty-four hours after arriving in Fiji, Pelesa and Filo had been released from hospital and were staying the consular staff from New Zealand, which administers Tokelau as a territory.

Only Nasau remained in hospital. New Zealand officials declined to give media access to the boys.

"The doctor told me to drink a lot of fluid and take a rest because we are so dehydrated," Nasau said. "He hasn't told me when I will be released, but I guess when I'm strong enough."

The three are expected to be flown to Samoa on Monday. They would then have to wait two weeks for a boat to take them back to their homeland, New Zealand's TV3 reported on Saturday.

News of the boys' survival was greeted as a miracle in Tokelau, a deeply Christian archipelago north of Samoa.

New Zealand maritime authorities began an official search Oct. 5 after worried family members reported them missing. Spotters in air force planes scoured thousands of square miles (kilometers) with no success.

The search was eventually called off, the boys given up for dead. The tight-knit community of 500 or so residents in their village held traditional grieving services.

One of the boys called their home village by satellite phone from the *San Nikuna*—with some trepidation because they thought they would get into trouble because they borrowed the boat from a relative without permission. Instead, they were greeted with jubilation.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 29, 1999

House endorses Sablan as next NMC president

Northern Marianas College Vice President Jack Sablan is endorsed by the House of Representatives to replace outgoing President Agnes M. McPhetres, widening his lead in terms of local support from other candidates vying for the position to be vacant by yearend. The House at the same time adopted on Friday a resolution recognizing the contributions to the college of McPhetres, who is retiring after more than 16 years of leading CNMI's lone higher learning institution. Sablan is one of 20 individuals, most of whom from off-island, who have submitted applications for the next NMC president.

Arriola appeals disqualification from gambling case

Lawyer Joseph A. Arriola has appealed before the Supreme Court a decision penned by Superior Court Judge Timothy H. Bellas disqualifying him from defending businessmen Cheung Pin Ying and eight others in an illegal gambling case. Cheung has pled not guilty to the charge filed by the Attorney General's Office against him. Mr. Arriola was barred from representing Mr. Cheung after Judge Bellas ruled that a lawyer who is working as a legal counsel for the government cannot represent a private client who is questioning the decision of that government entity before the court. He expressed he hope the Supreme Court will hand down its decision immediately, saying his my client has been deprived of the right to speedy trial and appoint a counsel of his own choosing.

Nov. 29, 2000

NMI sees more new investments, business expansion

Hopes are high efforts taken by the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the CNMI Legislature to build stronger economic backbone for the Northern Marianas will reap good fruits sooner than previously expected. In an interview with reporters yesterday, Mr. Tenorio dropped strong hints legislation granting tax breaks to new investments as well as present businesses with expansion plans will promptly pass his office for immediate implementation. The governor said there is a need to put up measures that will be desirable to new investors and existing businesses, which would at least encourage them to pour in fresh capital into the CNMI economy.

Jones: 20 U.S. companies want to invest in CNMI

Twenty U.S. companies are eyeing investments of "millions of dollars" in the CNMI that will tap local workers with pay at prevailing federal minimum wage, according to Rep. Dino M. Jones. He said he met with prospective investors during his visit last week in Portland, Oregon that was a follow-up to an earlier meeting with the group in Las Vegas. Management representatives of the companies are expected to visit Saipan next month in an investment mission to meet with government officials and conduct site inspections here, said the lawmaker.

Nov. 29, 2001

COE receives first finance report

The CNMI Commission on Election has received the first financial disclosure report submitted by an election candidate stating campaign funds received and disbursed during the November 3 polls. Election Commission Executive Director Greg Sablan said that Reform Party's Saipan senatorial candidate Joaquin T. Quitugua was the first to file a financial report among 109 politicians who run in the last elections. Sablan said that, although the deadline for the submission of the comprehensive financial report is due on December 24, some candidates have started turning in their respective records.

Study: NMC students stay to finish entire college term

A vast majority of Northern Marianas College students who enroll at the public institution stick around until the end of the semester to complete their courses, a retention study revealed. The study, which partly accounted for the number of students who stayed to the term's end versus the number of students who enrolled in the beginning of the semester, was able to note an average of 95 percent retention rate for Academic Year 2000-2001. NMC Institutional Effectiveness Director Stanley Mar said that once students enter the college, they are generally set to stay for the entire semester. "Once they enter NMC's doors, they're pretty happy. Very few do not continue until the end of the semester. What we have to find out is why some do not come back in the succeeding semester," said Mar.



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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-11-007

DRINKING WATER & WASTEWATER MASTER PLAN, CNMI

ADDENDUM NO. 1

November 17, 2010

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendment to the proposal submittal deadline for CUC-RFP-11-007:

One (1) original and seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-007, Drinking Water & Wastewater Master Plan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, M.P. 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on **January 14, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on **January 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Commander Kenneth Esplin via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bangles up to \$850 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A sane response on caffeinated alcoholic drinks

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Food and Drug Administration officials have begun a long overdue crackdown on alcoholic drinks that contain caffeine. The FDA has concluded, correctly, that adding caffeine to alcohol is unsafe and hasn't been approved by federal officials. Four companies that make the drinks were given 15 days to take action; the FDA could seek a court order banning the products if they don't.

The FDA's decision comes after a series of disturbing reports involving underage drinkers and products such as Four Loko, a caffeine-infused fruity malt beverage that contains 12 percent alcohol. It has been implicated in several deaths and hospitalizations. The maker of Four Loko, Chicago-based Phusion Products, said it would remove caffeine, guarana and taurine from its products. Phusion, founded by three friends at The Ohio State University in 2005, has aggressively marketed its products on college campuses.

Phusion insists its products are safe, comparing them with rum and cokes and Irish coffees. But that's quite a stretch. A 23.5-ounce can of Four Loko—known on campus as “blackout in a can”—contains as much alcohol as four beers and the caffeine equivalent of a cup of coffee. Drinkers get drunk yet remain alert enough to keep drinking, sometimes to bad effect.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that drinkers who consume alcohol mixed with energy drinks are three times more likely to binge drink than other drinkers. Mary Claire O'Brien, a professor of emergency medicine at Wake Forest University, last year told the FDA that combining alcohol and caffeine was dangerous. She said that drinking the two together made for a more potent effect than drinking either separately.

“FDA does not find support for the claim that the addition of caffeine to these alcoholic beverages is ‘generally recognized as safe,’ which is the legal standard,” said Joshua M. Sharfstein, the FDA's principal deputy commissioner, in a written statement. “To the contrary, there is evidence that the combinations of caffeine and alcohol in these products pose a public health concern.”

The FDA is right. And while removing caffeine from this line of products won't prevent naive drinkers from mixing energy drinks with alcohol, it is a responsible step and sends the right message: Mixing caffeine with alcohol can be dangerous.



Our country is only as good as our elected officials

In the classic tale of *Gulliver's Travels*, written by Jonathan Swift and published in 1726, Gulliver travels to the land of Lilliput. There he learns that “when a great office is vacant... five or six candidates petition the Emperor to entertain his Majesty and the court with a dance on a rope; and whoever jumps the highest without falling succeeds in the office.” Swift discusses other equally silly competitions for high positions. However at no time is there any attempt to select candidates with the ability to perform in the office selected.

It appears that we have also been doing almost the same thing in the voting of our elected officials. We fail to realize that an elected official performs an important role because he effectuates good government policies. The official's attitude and ability affects immeasurably the laws made and the direction that the country will move in.

At times I question the manner in which some of our officials are elected in the CNMI. What are the criteria that the candidates must meet? Are they simply elected because they are a family member? What have they done for the community before aspiring to elected office? This type of voting is what has reduced us to a new poverty level never experienced before.

We should be concerned who these officials are and their background because they in turn confirm directors and department heads who in turn control the regular employees. It follows that the top official will hire only personnel who reflect his attitudes. Therefore unless the top official is highly professional and literate in his role, the entire department becomes ineffectual.

For example, there has been no head of the Tax and Revenue Division for two years! Doesn't this oversight help to explain why collection of taxes has been so negligent? Where have our lawmakers been all this while? Didn't they know or care about this oversight?

Meanwhile we citizens are forced to tolerate this incompetence while being required to pay higher fees for the bad services received from them. I recall when many government services were free, but now we must pay a fee for any request we make. Today we citizens and businesses are forced to pay more money for less service received than ever before. Though taxes have not been raised, government service fees have skyrocketed and will continue to do so. When are we going to demand competence?

As usual I am not trying to tell us what to do or how to remedy the situation. But I do beg us to think seriously about what is happening to us and to take initiatives to correct what is not good. Stop blaming the outside world for all our shortcomings. We live on a small group of islands and have merger resources, but we have brains to make any wrong right if we have the determination. We can be innovative. We can become productive, and we can stop the foolish and wasteful spending of money.

I borrow several quotes from a columnist named Charlie Reese which seem to fit here. I found them thoughtful. Hopefully they will cause you to think about our situation:

1. Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.
2. Have you ever wondered if both Democrats and Republicans are against deficits, why do we have deficits?
3. When we fully grasp the plain truth that the Administration and

By **ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



Congress control the power of government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

4. If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair.
5. If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.
6. You and I don't propose the budget, the Governor does.
7. You and I don't set fiscal policy, our Congress does.
8. All our elected officials of the House, the Senate and the Administration are directly, legally, morally and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague our country.
9. The Constitution, the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes.
10. I cannot think of a single domestic problem that is not directly traceable to our elected official.
11. There are no insolvable government problems.
12. If we have 16,000 people on welfare, it is because they want it that way.

The above statements are harsh but sadly true. We elected these people to help us find a better life. But matters are only getting worse. But I must add that we also are to blame for voting for them based on family, instead of ability to lead. We are as wrong as they.

No, I am not writing the above remarks just to sound off and point fingers. I learned a long time ago that when I point my finger accusing someone, three of my fingers point back to me. We are in this mess together and together we must work our way out of it.

Here is a Code of Ethics for Government Service borrowed from the U.S. House of Representatives. Do we have a Code of Ethics for Government Service in the CNMI? Don't you think this can be applicable to our officials also?

1. Put loyalty to the highest moral principals and to country above loyalty to government persons, party or department.
2. Uphold the Constitution, laws and legal regulations of the CNMI and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
3. Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay; giving to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.
4. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
5. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not; and never accept for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.
6. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties

See **OUR COUNTRY** on Next Page

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Economics: macro-micro whatever

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Hong Guan Ging Ji Xue. That is a mouthful, all right, but it rolls nicely in the Putunghua of Chinese universities. So does “macroeconomics studies,” its English equivalent, and I do not mean just the word. To the English learners in my Shenyang Aerospace U guest lecture audience—economics and language majors—after elucidating the three social process dynamics of economic, political and cultural, we hammered down the word “economics” by calling it *I cannot mix*. The ladies’ giggles indicated that the phonemic-mnemonic trick worked. Econometrics, the mainstay of both micro (individual and specific units) and macro (aggregates in a nation, region, or the world) economics is based on statistical probability. Aggregates of money supply and incomes (arena for fictional declarations), production and consumption (market share and sales figures to please managers and stockholders), as the basis of gauging the economic health of a people smack of snake oil science. But science, ne’ertheless. Econometrics is just like figuring how many Viagra was sold at the CHC pharmacy and then deducing the number of satisfied

Chamorros performing their bedroom aerobics. It is too much of a jump to make between premise and conclusion, but that is exactly how economists justify their elevated and glorified status. Economics as a social science discipline was not our best suit in the last PRAXIS we took, as opposed to history, geography, sociology and psychology. Opportunity cost is often bewailing what one did not choose! Lucid about the impossible precision required by natural sciences (with the language of physics now based on the chaos theory, and the logic of mathematics suffering from the irrelevance principle), I do not mind associating with the social scientists knowing that we get our mileage mostly out of gab fuel (of which we have unlimited supply). I am blabbering. I suppose our despair over the Marianas’ reliance on GI Joe’s defense budget make us subject to a command chain, and our futile attempts at self-reliance through labor exploitation and gambling leaves our prophetic sensibilities of preferential treatment for the poor and the marginalized with a bitter aftertaste. No amount of moral suasion is going to usher self-sufficiency, and definitely the voice of protest might be momentarily therapeutic but counterproductive in the long run. We would be better off buckling down to the practical issue of simple survival (mindful of E. F. Schumacher’s *Small is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered* with humanness as central focus, abetted by efficiency, and contexted on sustainable natural capital) by inventorying our present resources—natural, human, and technological, what we can produce out of it without exploiting imported labor and relying on external management that leaves nothing but operating fees into our public coffers; then distributing goods and services that reflects our common heritage of care and compassion. The voice of sanity, cooperation, collaboration and social harmony in the global stage belongs to President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao of China these days, whether dealing with global currency adjustments, border crises in geographies, or mitigation of climate warming effects. Our man of hope in the White House has re-election concerns so we do not expect policies of the heart;

rather we’ll witness the refinements of calculating minds. Besides, with corporations’ captivity of the election process guaranteed by a recent Supreme Court ruling, we will not expect distributive justice as an ethos emanating from Pennsylvania Avenue, or Capitol Hill, anytime soon. The White House’s currency policy is classic Reaganomics, its adjustments of the imperial power of the dollar oblivious of its effects on other currencies around the world, or the implications normally accruing to other money markets devaluing currency. But China for the moment has the limelight, especially as the highly visible Asian Games winds up in Guangzhou 2010. China’s admirable attempt at social amelioration and massive public work improvements may not be enough to bridge the deep gap between the 20 percent that is benefiting from current economic growth against the 70 percent gawking on the outside waiting for *mu qin* (Mother Nature) to smile on their dragon parade, and the marginalized 10 percent who seem to be on permanent dole. But its currency is strong against the US\$ and emerging as a global instrument of exchange, which does not sit well with the militant warlords of the Pentagon and the executives of the military-industrial complex. *Dong Bei* is a land of plenty and prosperity, but the hovels in the cities and countryside, recipients of trickle down benefits, are still too numerous, and the shining high-rise apartments and condominiums, symbols of economic growth, are mostly unfinished and still sparse of human habitation. We spent a considerable period of our career in comprehensive human development that covered the survival, sustenance and maintenance issues of local village economics. We did not think that in the sunset of our days, we would be revisiting the terrain, this time looking at the Marianas but against the backdrop of a humongous entity called China. So we wrestle with *Hong Guan Ging Ji* academically this coming semester in Shenyang. With sufficient Tsingtao Aleman brew, we gleefully say, *Ja!*

Finapos Tautauta

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Este hinalom haanen gupot guaha ‘nai na’ mahalañg ‘an ta konsidera finapos familiata antes. I guinaifen mañglu mas fresku piot gi lemlim tautau. I tanu ha tutuhon umañglu, señaat na mamamaila’ tiempun maipe talu. Kulan hu lilie’ i mañeluhu gi oriyen lamasan nana sige teña man-gimen kafe yan grasiosu siha na konbetsasion. Magahet na maseha un’ poblen guma’ ham ‘nai man-dañkulu, ni unu sumeha gi tinagu mañainan mame mañaunau gi makondusen finatton i Niño Jesus gi kompliañosña. Gi sigiente ogaan, taftaf inna’ gasgas i gima mame preparasion finatton i Niño. Kase ennau ‘las kuattro gi taloane ‘nai mafatto yan kantot yan kantoran Lali Fo. Sumen namagof na okasion sa’ ha bendese i Niño gima todus, soñgsoñg pot soñgsoñg, punta pot punta, guine gi O’Perlas Iya Pasifiku. Gi Misan Gayu, sumen na’ mahalañg ayu na kanta i “Ta fan magof todus”. Piot ‘nai mattu hau guihe na patte ‘nai ilegña: “Jesus, Yuus mame, gi nuevo na sakan, gai ase’ nu hame, apatta i dañu, nae’

nu i deskanso i man-gaige ‘sta gi naftan yan ayu seha kassu matai na sakan”. Hana fan man-hassu hit nu i man-hanau esta, dispues umensinahyau hau humidde na ginagau para ayu sehakasu man-magañg gi nuevo na sakan. Mientras ta hahassu i sustansian i kanta, kulan lokue mana hugando ayu i mañge’ yan grasiosu na tiempo yan i familia ‘nai todus man-brabu. Mannae’ hau agradesimientu pot todus i bendisionmu siha yan familiamu. Ta diseseha dinuebu na todus u fan felis gi nuevo na sakan. Solu fuetsan tinayuyot konsuelumu gi uttimu ora. Fan dañu yan familian miyu ya in’ fan man-gagau nu i tai achai-gua yan likidu na bendision i Niño Jesus. Taya’ mas satton ke konsuelun yan ayudon i Sainata gi uttimu suspiros siha. Ya maseha gaige hau gi talulu’ gi rimulinon chinatsaga, pas siñientemu gi hilu inañgoghu na siempre u fattu i Nanalibre yan ayuduña.

Megai tinilaika talilie’ gi modun famaguonta siha. Lau añgoghu na man-mauleg na famaguon sa’ siha mismu umespihihi manera ‘nai siña hana’ fan banidosu mañainan niha. Mas este un’ lie’ gi chechu familia ‘sino linahyan. ‘Nai duru i batida gi halom kusina, tat ti kalalamten mamika, man-yaka’ ‘sino muna’ lagu. I makreansa na patgon siempre buluntariamente ilegña maila’ ya guahu bai’ chogue ennau. Sin ditension anog ensegidas i ma’lag na espehos mañainaña. Este siha na famaguon man-respetau gi halom tautau. Man-adiñganiyon ya motmut respetu gi sensian niha. Ti man-hasupag gi chechu babarias lau sumen metgot sensian inadahe yan respetu gi prohimon niha. Un’ lie’ klaru na i dos saina makreansa mauleg famaguon asuntun linala’ espirituat ni mana’ fitme gi metgot ni kustumbren yan tradision tanu.

betray our trust. We ask that they sincerely put the welfare of the community before their own. We must understand that there is no such thing as something for nothing! Everything worth anything has a price. If we insist on trying to regain prosperity by selling our souls, we will pay a price that we will long and sadly regret. Casinos and other forms of gambling will not restore our lost prosperity. Legalizing marijuana will not restore our lost prosperity. These activities will only deepen the hole we have dug for ourselves. Change begins with single small but consistent actions. Each of us can become part of the revolution. Begin today by becoming interested in what our elected officials are doing on Capitol Hill. Monitor their decisions and then let them know that you are pleased or not pleased. Our elected officials are us and we are them. What we want they give us. We share the blame. No more no less. Repeat and repeat! *Our country will only be as good as our elected officials.* And keep looking for the diamonds under our feet! Believe it or not, they are there waiting to be picked up!

Sige amiguhu Magoo chumaleg tuyan gi finagpu misa. Humalom-yu na guaha talu entre mauleg ‘sino chechu kabron ha padese ya listu para u sañgane-yu. ‘Nai humihot, ha annusia na fitme esta pottanmonedaña ya taya’ presisu esta na u e’chochu’. Hu abirigua hafa bisnesña na biahe. Ilegña: “Huna’ fan ma-atkila todú troñkoghu maña, choda, suni, laguana, atis, lalañgita yan kahet”. Ha esplika haye umatkila tinanomña sombra petmanente. “Nahonñ Iku kebleghu na biahe”. ‘Nai hu rikononose troñkoghu gi lanchu, unu ha’ gaige ni ti manonogcha’. I troñkun choda siha man-gaige gi fina’ lehñgon man-e’emisirikoddia inanan somnag. Mattu dispues i amiguhu Magoo ya ilegña: “Mmmm! Iku, mauleg hau mananom gi entalu hale’ tañgantañgan”. Ai na gracia talu.

Dispues, hanae’yu pinegsaihu manog yan un’ lechun. Ha soyu’yu’ na bai’ pogsai yan famta’ kosake todú i tiempu guaha yangin hu nessesita. Mauleg na amiguhu ya maseha ti ma-eduka high school yan koleho, maulegña linala’ña ke guahu.

Letter to the Editor

Insane

In Saturday’s news there was an article regarding House Speaker Tenorio’s assessment of Stanley Torres’ casino bill. Tenorio was quoted as saying: “It doesn’t have to be like my bill as long as it’s something that’s acceptable to investors.” Huh? It appears that the Speaker’s priorities are indeed questionable. What about something acceptable to the *citizens* of the CNMI who have already resoundingly rejected casino gambling on Saipan? The interests of the people should certainly override that of “investors” as well as the personal interests of those supporters of gambling. Additionally, if anyone thinks that supporting gambling will be a money-making proposition, than go to Tinian and see how many (or few) people are playing there. They are barely staying afloat. What justification is there to say Saipan will bring in hoards of gamblers who will suddenly add millions of dollars to the CNMI’s coffers? This is truly a foolish pipe dream. One also has to wonder what will happen to our sister islands if gambling came to Saipan. It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out that they would be adversely affected. What a slap in the face to Tinian and Rota, both struggling financially. So, we have a bill that the citizens don’t want, for a casino that would likely flop, and if initiated would hurt Tinian and Rota. But if it makes the investors happy, that’s all that matters...right? One has to wonder who will really be the winners and losers if this insane bill passes.

William R. Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

OUR COUNTRY






From Page 10

of office, since a government official has no private word which can be binding on public duty. 7. Engage in no business with the government, either directly or indirectly which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties. 8. Never use any information coming to him confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for making a private profit. 9. Expose corruption whenever discovered. 10. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust. Ten powerful thoughts to wrestle with. But think of the society that will emerge if these principals are adhered to! We need government officials who will encourage us to plow our fields and use our hands to make things of value. We ask that they be honest and not

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼80
Palau	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87 ▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼74

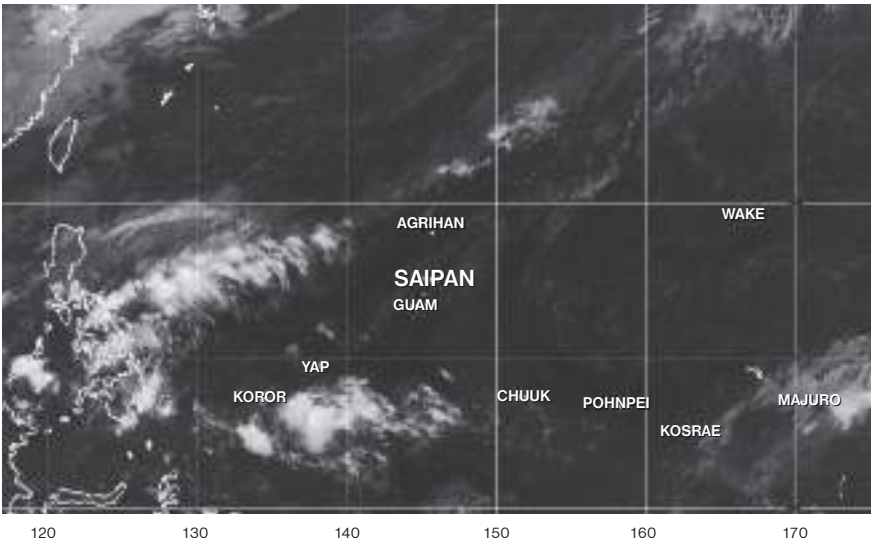
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲70 ▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲50 ▼26
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77 ▼56
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲37 ▼29
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲63 ▼45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼52
Miami	Showers	▲82 ▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲49 ▼43
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼44
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲36 ▼27
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼49
Rome	Showers	▲61 ▼51
Salem	Showers	▲44 ▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲53 ▼39
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼45
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼46

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet	
7:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
2:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
8:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Minami Torishima through 25N150E to 20N144E then continuing as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this feature. Isolated thunderstorms are also seen at the southwestern end of the shear line between 130E and 133E. A surface trough runs northward from 1N144E to 9N141E. Upper-level divergence associated with an upper low centered near 9N141E is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near the trough south of Koror and Yap within 90 miles of a line from 2N131E to 6N139E to 8N147E. Scattered showers are evident farther south within 60 miles of a line from 4N138E to 2N145E. A weak trade-wind disturbance is causing widely scattered showers from Majuro to the date line between 5N and 8N from 169E to 180. An upper-level low is located southeast of Wake Island at 15N173E. Isolated thunderstorms are present near this system within 70 miles of a line from 16N171E to 19N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:27 PM
Tuesday	12:49 AM	1:10 PM
Wednesday	1:45 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	2:43 AM	2:39 PM
Friday	3:42 AM	3:27 PM

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 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMU'T SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM+Palau	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM+Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM+Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM+Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

SHRM presents 'The CNMI Prevailing Wage System'

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be hosting a special half-day membership meeting on "The CNMI Prevailing Wage System" this Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010.

Organizations or individuals seeking U. S. employment-based visas will not want to miss this event. Before any non-resident worker can obtain a U. S. work visa, a prevailing wage study must be conducted to determine the minimum prevailing wage for the position.

The first speaker will be William Rabung of the U. S. Department of Labor's Employment Training Administration (Washington D.C.) via live video teleconference. Rabung and his team will explain the current prevailing wage system that is being used for the CNMI and how prevailing wage studies may be conducted by organizations or industries.

The second speaker will be Gary Hiles of the Guam Department of Labor. Hiles will explain how Guam set up their prevailing wage system and offer recommendations on how the CNMI could go about setting up its own system based on

CNMI wage averages only.

The presentations will provide attendees the opportunity to:

- Find out how the U. S. Department of Labor currently determines CNMI prevailing wages for U.S. work visa applicants;

- Learn about the process used to conduct a prevailing wage study for a business or industry;

- Find out where you can obtain resources to conduct a prevailing wage study;

- Learn about the Guam prevailing wage system and how they conduct regular wage studies;

- Participate in the question and answer section of each presentation.

The lunch meeting will be held at Northern Marianas College in room D-1 (across the NMC Bookstore) on Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010, from 8:30am–11:30am. The seminar includes breakfast and refreshments and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. (PR)



More workers have something up their sleeve

By MOLLY SELVIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Last year Justin Miloro had to wear long sleeves to conceal the Buddha curling around his left forearm and the yellow-orange sun rays on his right. Pants covered the depiction of Earth on one leg and wings on the other. The sun spreading across his back was under wraps. The plugs in his earlobes were obscured by bandages.

"I thought it was really silly," Miloro recalled, "worse than seeing the tattoos."

This year he has nothing to hide—even though the 32-year-old worked last year for Whole Foods Market Inc. in Boston, where he was a salesclerk, and now works as a manager for the same company in Los Angeles, overseeing health and beauty products departments at 25 stores.

The chain has looser dress and grooming standards in some parts of the country than others. Setting degrees of tattoo taboos is how Whole Foods handles the increasing attraction to—though definitely not universal acceptance of—body art.

Once associated with drunken sailors, felons and Hells Angels, tattoos have gone nearly mainstream, putting employers in a bind. How to write rules that won't alienate un-hip customers on the one hand or eliminate talented workers on the other?

A pink rose discreetly inked on an ankle might pass muster at a hospital but not a day-care center; an eyebrow stud will be viewed as charming at one store and a blemish at another. In many cases, grooming policies are being set by members of a generation known for letting it all hang out.

"The baby boomers had hair out to the ceiling, cut jeans, ripped clothes that they washed sometimes," said Mark Mehler, co-founder of CareerXroads, a New Jersey recruiting and consulting company.

And now boomers are passing judgment on nose rings.

The irony isn't lost on Fred Saunders, president and founder of FSPS Inc., which stages concerts and productions for companies including Nintendo Co. and Walt Disney Co. Some of them demand clean-cut crews: trimmed side-



Whole Foods manager Justin Miloro, right, with manager Jheny Molina, is free to show his tattoos at work now that the company has relocated him from Boston to Los Angeles.

burns, long hair pulled into ponytails, no detectable tattoos.

Of course, Saunders, 57, doesn't often take his shirt off during contract negotiations: On his back is a tattoo tableau featuring a samurai warrior skirmishing with a dragon.

"There's a shock value to the art," he acknowledged, and some people get a "negative vibe."

Nearly 50 percent of Americans between 21 and 32 have at least one tattoo or a piercing other than in an ear, according to a 2006 study by the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. Men and women alike say their tattoos make them feel sexy and rebellious, a 2003 Harris Poll found, while the unadorned of both genders see body art as unsightly and think those with tattoos and piercings are less intelligent and less attractive.

For Tumbleweed Day Camp in Los Angeles, this divide can cause headaches. Although counselors' body art tends toward ladybugs or Asian characters for "luck," some parents complain that the inked and pierced don't look like appropriate role models. But Director John Beitner said that if he adopted a no-tattoo policy, he would lose excellent candidates for the camp's 120 counseling jobs.

Just 10 years ago, he said, only 5 percent of the staff had tattoos, and this sum-

mer it's close to 20 percent.

Beitner's solution: the is-it-offensive test, applied on a case-by-case basis. "A butterfly is not such a big deal," he said, but a skull and crossbones with blood dripping out of the eye sockets would be a problem. And sometimes Beitner does ask staffers to remove belly rings or tongue studs when they're at work.

Like many law-enforcement agencies, the Costa Mesa Police Department in Orange County takes a relatively hard line. The department's 162 officers can't display any tattoos or piercings while in uniform. The only exception is one stud per ear (hoops pose a safety risk).

"The big concern for us is professionalism," said Hugh Tate, who directs training and recruitment for the department.

Four years ago, the department didn't need a policy on body art. Then tattooed veterans of the war in Iraq began to apply for jobs. Unlike those from earlier wars, who embellished their upper arms with service insignias, many of these vets vividly had decorated their entire forearms.

Tate said the department had to turn them away. If they wanted to sue, claiming discrimination, they wouldn't get very far, because the law gives employers broad latitude to establish dress and grooming standards consistent with the images they want to convey.

Higher gas prices will not slow most holiday shoppers

Many Americans are determined not to let higher gas be the Grinch that spoils their holiday spending plans.

Gas prices on average have risen about 17 cents since Labor Day, following a \$12 increase in oil prices. By one analyst's estimate, that means Americans are spending around \$68 million more on gas each day than in early September.

While that sounds like a threat to sales of Barbie Video Girl dolls and even iPods, on an individual basis the increase amounts to \$3 or \$4 extra to fill up a car, a bit more for an SUV or a pick-up. Many motorists absorb the cost increases by skipping the gourmet coffee or passing on a movie. Or they drive less.

Cassie Peterson, 25, a health coordinator from St. Paul, said higher prices won't change what she buys for her nieces, as she pumped gas into a Ford F-350 pickup truck at a SuperAmerica gas station in White

Bear Lake, Minn., on Friday. She paid \$2.80 per gallon.

"Whatever I see and they like, they get," she said.

While the national average for gas of \$2.86 per gallon is the highest it's been at the start of the holiday shopping season in three years—and prices have topped \$3 in some major U.S. cities—hardly hits drivers with the sticker shock they experienced when gas topped \$4 per gallon in 2008.

"If this was the first time, it would have huge implications," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market research firm NPD Group. "But consumers have seen this several times before."

Analysts like Cohen do concede that the \$3 mark does make drivers notice and can influence spending habits.

Analysts expect most Americans will similarly choose to forgo those smaller things instead of gifts. (AP)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Calif. city's ID card would double as debit card

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California city is moving forward with plans for a municipal identification card that is being touted as the first in the nation that would double as a full-fledged debit card. The Oakland City Council this month awarded a contract to issue the cards. The goal is to help any city residents, including illegal immigrants, who may have difficulty obtaining a state-issued ID. Card holders would also be able to load money onto their cards and use them wherever ATM cards are welcome. Oakland officials say that would allow people without bank accounts to avoid high check-

cashing fees or the need to walk around with large amounts of cash.

Qantas A380 returns to air after engine blowout

SYDNEY (AP)—A Qantas A380 carrying more than 450 passengers, including the airline's chief executive, took to the skies Saturday in the first flight by one of its superjumbos since a midair engine explosion three weeks ago triggered a global safety review. Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said he was flying the first leg of the Sydney-Singapore-London flight as a sign of the airline's conviction that it had completed all modifications and other checks on the Rolls-Royce engines, and the planes

were safe to fly. But Australia's flagship airline suffered another setback the same day when a Boeing 747 flight from Sydney to London via Bangkok was grounded in Sydney overnight due to a "wiring issue," Qantas spokesman Tom Woodward said.

Trustee for Madoff victims files 40 lawsuits in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Relatives of both Bernard Madoff and his wife are among those being targeted in 40 lawsuits announced Friday by the trustee endeavoring to recover money for victims fleeced by the disgraced financier. Twenty-two of the lawsuits were filed against relatives of Madoff and his wife,

trustee Irving H. Picard said in a news release. Eighteen lawsuits were filed against former employees of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC, he said. Picard said his firm is seeking about \$69 million in funds deposited by the company's customers and stolen in the 72-year-old's vast Ponzi scheme. Among the complaints, Madoff's sister, Sondra M. Weiner, is accused of having "profited for decades" from the scheme, Picard said.

Black Friday retail sales edge up only slightly

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers crowded stores on Black Friday but spent just a little more than last year on the

traditional start of the holiday shopping season, according to data released Saturday by a research firm. Retail spending rose a slight 0.3 percent, to \$10.69 billion, compared with \$10.66 billion on the day after Thanksgiving last year, according to ShopperTrak. Two factors behind the slim increase, a disappointment following bullish reports from stores Friday, were heavy discounts earlier in November and online shopping, which saw a big increase. Chicago research firm Shoppertrak, which tallies sales in more than 70,000 retail outlets across the country, said the total was still a record for the day. It stood behind its prediction for spending to rise 3.2 percent for the season.

Nation

San Diego drug tunnel had railcar, tons of pot

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Investigators suspect a major drug cartel was the driving force behind two long, sophisticated tunnels connecting Mexico with the U.S. that were discovered this month along with more than 40 tons of marijuana.

Authorities said an underground passage located Thursday was similar to one found earlier—both running around 2,000 feet from Mexico to San Diego and equipped with lighting, ventilation, and a rail system for drugs to be carried on a small cart.

The tunnels are believed to be the work of Mexico's Sinaloa cartel, headed by that country's most-wanted drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, said Mike Unzueta, head of investigations at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in San Diego.

"We think ultimately they are controlled by the same overall cartel but that the tunnels were being managed and run independently by different cells operating within the same organization," Unzueta said Friday.

The tunnel found Thursday is more than seven football fields in length and extends from the kitchen

of a home in Tijuana, Mexico, to two warehouses in San Diego's Otay Mesa industrial district.

Three men were arrested in the United States, and the Mexican military raided a ranch in Mexico and made five arrests in connection with the tunnel, authorities said.

U.S. authorities have discovered more than 125 clandestine tunnels along the Mexican border since the early 1990s, though many were crude and incomplete.

The passage found Thursday is one of the most sophisticated to date, with an entry shaft in Mexico lined with cinderblocks and the rail system, Unzueta said.

U.S. authorities do not know how long the latest tunnel was operating. Unzueta said investigators began to look into it in June on a tip that emerged from a large bust of marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

U.S. authorities followed a trailer from one of the warehouses to a Border Patrol checkpoint in Temecula,

where they seized 27,600 pounds of marijuana. The driver, whose name was not released, was arrested, along with two others who went to a residence in suburban El Cajon that had \$13,500 cash inside.

"That (trailer) was literally filled top to bottom, front to back," Unzueta said. "There wasn't any room for anything else in that tractor-trailer but air."

Three tons of marijuana were found in a "subterranean room" and elsewhere in the tunnel on the U.S. side, authorities said. Mexican officials seized four tons of pot at a ranch in northern Mexico, bringing the total haul to more than 20 tons.

The discovery of the cross-border tunnel earlier this month marked one of the largest marijuana seizures in the United States, with agents confiscating 20 tons of marijuana they said was smuggled through the underground passage. That tunnel ran the length of six football fields under the border and warehouses in Mexico and San Diego. One of the warehouses involved in the tunnel discovered Thursday is only a half-block away.

Oregon bomb-plot suspect wanted 'spectacular show'

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A Somali-born teenager plotted "a spectacular show" of terrorism for months, saying he didn't mind that children would die if he bombed a crowded Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, according to a law-enforcement official and court documents.

He never got the chance. Mohamed Osman Mohamud, 19, was arrested Friday in downtown Portland after using



Mohamud

a cell phone to try to detonate what he thought were explosives in a van, prosecutors said. It turned out to be a dummy bomb put together by FBI agents, and authorities said the public was never in danger.

The case is the latest in a string of alleged terrorist planning by U.S. citizens or residents, including a Times Square plot in which a Pakistan-born man pleaded guilty earlier this year to trying to set off a car

bomb at a busy street corner. In the Portland plot, Mohamud believed he was receiving help from a larger ring of jihadists as he communicated

with undercover agents, but a law enforcement official who wasn't authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on a condition of anonymity told The Associated Press that no foreign terrorist organization was directing him.

The official said Mohamud planned the details, including where to park the van to hurt the most people.

"I want whoever is attending that event to leave, to leave dead or injured," Mohamud said, according to the affidavit.

Thousands of people gathered Friday on a cold, clear night for the annual event at Pioneer Courthouse Square, a plaza known as "Portland's living room."

Soldiers buck historical trend by saying gays OK

WASHINGTON (AP)—When a majority of troops told the Pentagon this summer they didn't care if gays were allowed to serve openly in the military, it was in sharp contrast to the time when America's fighting forces voiced bitter opposition to accepting racial minorities and women in the services.

The survey, due out Tuesday, is expected to find pockets of resistance among combat troops to ending the ban on gays. But some 70 percent of respondents were expected to say that lifting the ban would have a positive or mixed effect, or none at all, according to officials familiar with the findings.

The study is expected to set the stage for a showdown in the Senate between advocates of repealing the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" law and a small but

powerful group of foes in the final days of the lame-duck Congress.

Repeal would mean that, for the first time in U.S. history, gays would be openly accepted by the military and could acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being kicked out.

U.S. troops haven't always been so accepting. Troop surveys conducted throughout the 1940s on blacks and Jews, and in the 1970s and 1980s on women, exposed deep rifts within a military that was dominated by white males but becoming increasingly reliant on minorities to help do its job.

In a study from July 1947, four of five enlisted men told the Army that they would oppose blacks serving in their units even if whites and blacks didn't share housing or food facilities.

The same study also revealed a deep resentment toward Jews. Most enlisted men said Jews had profited greatly from the war and many doubted that Jews had suffered under Adolf Hitler.

"Negro outfits should be maintained separately," an Army master sergeant from North Carolina told the Pentagon in 1947. "To do otherwise is to invite trouble and many complications. The equal rights plan should not be forced on the Army as an example to civilians."

Troops also offered dire predictions for what would happen if whites and black units were forced to serve together.

"For sure, all the GIs will quit the Army or buck like hell to get out," a 20-year-old Army private first class told the surveyors. The service members were quoted anonymously in the 1947 study.

Ex charged in NY with murdering Pa. dance student

CLAY, N.Y. (AP)—A 20-year-old Pennsylvania dance student who vanished last week while on Thanksgiving break in her hometown was killed by her on-again, off-again boyfriend, who then dumped her body in a park "like garbage," a prosecutor said Saturday.

Onondaga County District Attorney William Fitzpatrick said 21-year-old Steven Pieper of Liverpool, N.Y., was charged with murder in the death of Jenni-Lyn Watson, a junior dance major at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa. He pleaded not guilty Saturday night at his initial appearance in Clay town court.

Pieper was held without bail because of the seriousness of the charge, Fitzpatrick told the Syracuse Post-Standard.

Pieper did not have a phone number listed at his home address. A message left at a relative's house was not immediately returned Saturday. It was unclear whether he had an attorney.

Eden Mishler, a dance major who met Watson three years ago during her freshman year at Mercyhurst College, told The Associated Press that she had met Pieper several times but didn't know him that well.

"She would talk to us, just saying, after they broke up, that he was trying to contact her and friend request her on Facebook," the 21-year-old Mishler said. "She was avoiding him."

But she said the two had a rocky relationship, and there was some jealousy. Nevertheless, Mishler thought he cared for her.

On her Facebook page, Mishler posted: "Rest in peace Jenni-Lyn Watson. You are truly loved and will be missed so much. I love you ballet buddy!"



This image released by the Watson family and provided by The Post-Standard shows a missing poster for Jenni-Lyn Watson, 20.

ACROSS THE NATION

Search scaled back for Utah ranger shooter suspect

MOAB, Utah (AP)—Authorities say they're further pulling back on the search for the man suspected of shooting and critically wounding a Utah park ranger. The Grand County sheriff says all mobile command centers will be closed, and rangers instead will run routine patrols in the desert area near Moab where the manhunt for 40-year-old Lance Leeroy Arellano took place. Ranger Brody Young was injured in a Nov. 19 shootout with the suspect while conducting a routine parking lot check at the Poison Spider Mesa Trailhead. The Salt Lake Tribune reports perimeters set in the search area likely will come down, too. Authorities believe Arellano was shot in the leg during the shootout. Young remains in critical but stable condition at a Grand Junction, Colo., hospital.

Palin says Iowa book signing stop not political

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Hundreds turned out for a Sarah Palin book signing in Iowa, an event the former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate insisted was not for political purposes. Palin's stop Saturday at the Borders in West Des Moines brought her back to Iowa, which hosts the caucuses that kick off the presidential nominating season. The "American by Heart" author has hinted that she's considering a 2012 presidential run, but says the visit was to promote her new book and that's all. People who bought her book were shuffled to the signing table in small groups. But few complained, and most couldn't contain their excitement. Palin is scheduled to return to Iowa on Thursday for an event in Storm Lake.

Ohio man charged with murdering girlfriend, 2 kids

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Tia Hendricks was supposed to bring dessert to her family's Thanksgiving dinner. A cake, maybe, or her famous banana pudding. But she and her two children never made it. Authorities in central Ohio say Hendricks' live-in boyfriend, Caron Montgomery, stabbed the three of them to death before wounding himself. Columbus police found the three bodies with knife wounds Friday after the 31-year-old Hendricks didn't show up for Thanksgiving or to her job as a bill collector the following day. Autopsy results are expected Sunday. Montgomery, 36, was arrested Saturday on three murder charges, and authorities moved him from a hospital to the Franklin County jail. It wasn't clear whether he had an attorney.

Police: 2 men shot inside suburban Detroit mall

HARPER WOODS, Mich. (AP)—A dispute between two rival groups of teenagers escalated into gunfire Saturday when members of one of the groups opened fire inside a shopping mall, critically injuring one teenager and a clothing store worker as holiday shoppers dashed for cover, police said. The shooting happened around 6 p.m. at Eastland Mall, east of Detroit, on the heels of Black Friday, traditionally the kickoff for what retailers hope is the busiest weekend of the holiday season. The mall was closed for the night as police searched for suspects, said Harper Woods deputy police chief Jim Burke. The 18-year-old victim, a member of the rival group, was struck in the chest, and a stray bullet hit the leg of the worker, in his mid-30s, who was standing outside the clothing store, Burke said.

Asia

US, South Korea launch war games

By DAVID GUTTENFELDER and
JEAN H. LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

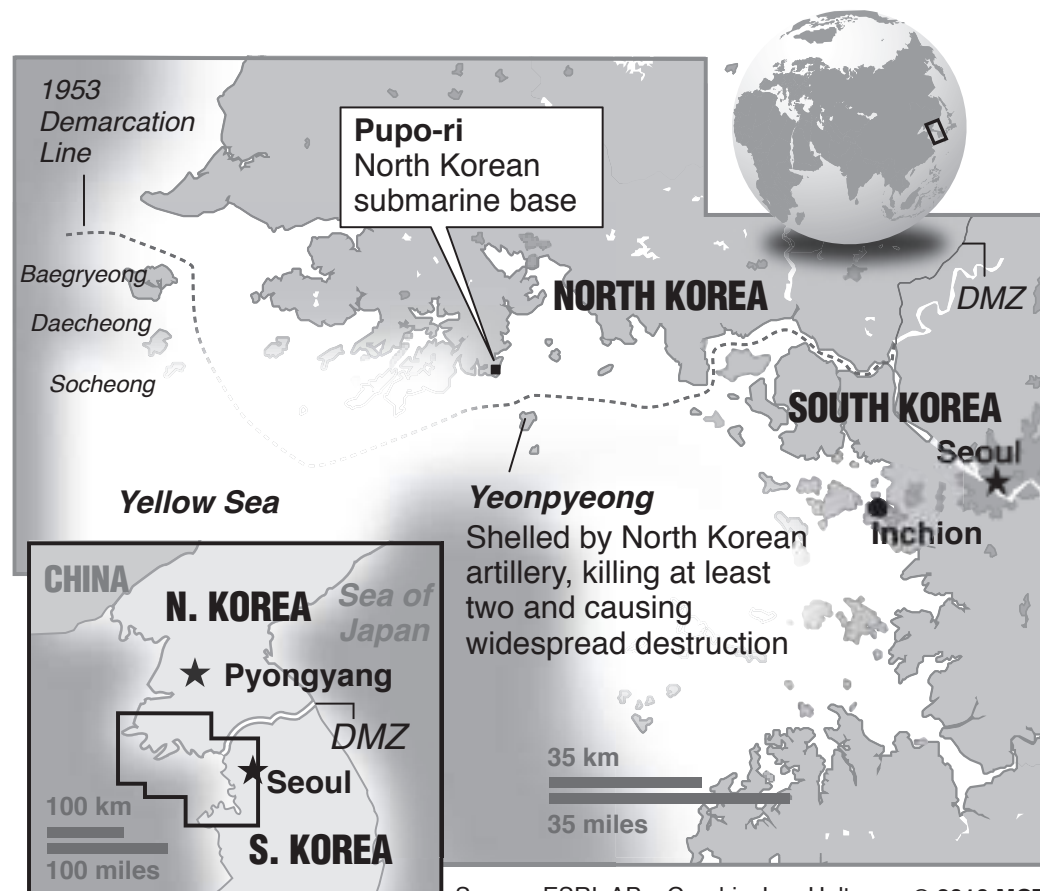
YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—The sound of new artillery fire from North Korea just hours after the U.S. and South Korea launched a round of war games in Korean waters sent residents and journalists on a front-line island scrambling for cover Sunday.

None of the rounds landed on Yeonpyeong Island, military officials said, but the incident showed how tense and uncertain the situation remains along the Korean peninsula's disputed maritime border five days after a North Korean artillery attack decimated parts of the island and killed four South Koreans.

As the rhetoric from North Korea escalated, with new warnings of a "merciless" assault if further provoked, a top Chinese official made a last-minute visit to Seoul to confer with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak.

Lee and State Councilor Dai Bingguo, a senior foreign policy adviser, discussed the North Korean attack and how to ease the tensions, according to Lee's office. Dai also met with South Korean Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said.

Meanwhile, the chairman



Source: ESRI, AP Graphic: Lee Hulteng © 2010 MCT

of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, Choe Thae Bok, was due to visit Beijing starting Tuesday, China's official Xinhua News Agency said.

Washington and Seoul have urged China, North Korea's main ally and biggest benefactor, to step in to defuse the situation amid fears of all-out war.

The Korean peninsula re-

mains in a technical state of war because the 1950-53 war ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. Their border is one of the world's most heavily fortified, guarded by troops on both sides.

However, North Korea disputes the maritime border drawn by U.N. forces at the close of the war, and considers the waters around Yeonpyeong



A South Korean marine, behind a shrapnel hole in the window of his vehicle, waits for fellow marines to remove North Korean shells found in a neighborhood on South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010.

of 1,300 - marked a new level of hostility along the rivals' disputed sea border. Two marines and two civilians were killed when the North rained artillery on Yeonpyeong Island in one of the worst assaults on South Korean territory since the Korean War.

The attack took place as North Korea carries out a delicate transfer of power from leader Kim Jong Il to a young, unproven son in what many see as the heir's bid to win the military's loyalty. It also may reflect Pyongyang's frustration that it has been unable to force a resumption of stalled international talks on receiving aid in return for nuclear disarmament.

The attack also laid bare weaknesses in South Korea's defenses against North Korea.

North Korea said Saturday that civilian deaths were "regrettable," but blamed South Korea for staging military drills in the waters against Pyongyang's warnings that it would consider such exercises a provocation.

Meanwhile, North Korea mounted surface-to-air SA-2 missiles on launch pads on a west coast base and aimed at

South Korean fighter jets flying near the western sea border, the Yonhap news agency reported, citing an unidentified South Korean government source.

South Korea's military said it couldn't confirm the deployments. An official at the Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North already deploys anti-ship missiles on its west coast bases.

The previously planned joint war games that U.S. and South Korea launched Sunday were sure to heighten the tensions.

Washington insists that the drills involving the nuclear-powered USS George Washington supercarrier are routine and were planned well before last Tuesday's attack.

The exercises kicked off Sunday morning when ships from both countries entered the exercise zone, an official with South Korea's joint chiefs of staff said on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

However, a spokesman for the U.S. military in South Korea said U.S. ships were still steaming toward the area and that the drills would not officially begin until later in the day.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Okinawa vote to test US-Japan military alliance

TOKYO (AP)—Voters headed to the polls on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa on Sunday to choose between two gubernatorial candidates campaigning for the removal of a controversial U.S. Marine base. The U.S. Futenma air base has been located on Okinawa island since 1945, and residents have long complained it produces aircraft noise and crime. A 2006 deal between the U.S. and Japan to relocate the base to a less crowded location on Okinawa has stalled over public opposition to the plan. The controversy even toppled a prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, earlier this year. The two candidates for Okinawan governor have both run on a platform that opposes the relocation plan, and the alliance between Washington and Tokyo will likely be tested no matter the outcome of the vote.

UN official meets Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Released Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi met Saturday with a senior U.N. official and said she hopes the talks will be the first of many with the world body to solve the country's problems. Suu Kyi met for more than an hour with Vijay Nambiar, chief of staff for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his special envoy to the military-controlled country. Nambiar met earlier with Myanmar's foreign minister, but details of the talks were not available. Since her release Nov. 13 from more than seven years of continuous house arrest, Suu Kyi has been busy talking with dip-

lomats, politicians and international agencies.

Suicide bombers kill 12 at Afghan police HQ

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two suicide bombers blew themselves up at an Afghan police headquarters Saturday, killing 12 officers in an area along the Pakistan border that still sees heavy Taliban attacks even as NATO pours in more troops and resources. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in eastern Paktika province. The attackers, who were disguised in police uniforms, made it through three security gates, said Nawab Waziri, the head of Paktika's provincial council. One attacker detonated his explosives inside the police headquarters building, while the other blew himself up near the entrance about 20 minutes later.

4th blast hits New Zealand coal mine where 29 died

GREYMOUTH, New Zealand (AP)—A fourth explosion in nine days has ripped through a New Zealand coal mine where the volatile conditions have prevented recovery of 29 miners' bodies. The workers were trapped by the first blast on Nov. 19 and declared dead after a massive second blast five days later. There were no injuries from Sunday's blast. People working near the mine entrance were moved away from the area for their safety. Police superintendent Dave Cliff said "we are doing all we can" to recovery the victims but the new explosion showed the risks involved and the need to keep rescue workers safe. The new blast possibly was sparked by methane gas leaking from coal seams and a smoldering fire underground.

Island - 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the South Korean port of Incheon but just 7 miles (11 kilometers) from the North Korean mainland - its territory.

The Koreans have fought three bloody naval skirmishes in the waters since 1999, as recently as a year ago. And eight months ago, a South Korean warship, which had been involved in one of those skirmishes, went down in an explosion, killing 46 sailors.

An international team of investigators concluded that a North Korean torpedo sank the ship. The two Koreas have remained locked in a standoff over that incident, with South Korea demanding a show of regret for the attack and North Korea denying any involvement.

Tuesday's attack - on an island with a civilian population

Cargo plane crashes into Pakistani housing complex

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A cargo plane crashed into a housing complex in Karachi soon after takeoff Sunday, setting off a huge blaze and killing all eight Russian crew on board, Pakistan's civil aviation authority said.

At least one person on the ground was injured, but the Russian-made plane missed several densely populated apartment blocks by a few hundred yards (meters). About 20 houses were damaged or destroyed though most were under construction and believed to be unoccupied, locals said.

The Sudan-bound plane crashed around 1:50 a.m., when many people in the upscale neighborhood of Pakistan's largest city were asleep. One of the plane's engines was on fire

when it flew overhead, several witnesses said.

"I saw one of its wings was burning and there was a blast and the fire engulfed the aircraft very quickly," said Riaz Ahmed.

The plane exploded into flames, sending fire and smoke into the night sky and setting off loud explosions. Fire trucks sprayed foam onto the crash site and after two hours the blaze was extinguished, allowing rescuers to search through the destroyed buildings for bodies or survivors.

Hundreds of people came to see the spectacle and film it with their cell phones, hampering access for emergency workers.

Aviation authority spokesman Pervais George said the plane came down two minutes after take off from the city's interna-

tional airport. He said the eight crew, all Russians, were dead.

Many people initially thought the blast was from a bomb, a regular event in militant-torn Pakistan.

"I was sleeping and the huge blast awoke me. I thought some suicide attack might have occurred and I run outside," said Rehan Hashmi.

Local doctor Abdul Razak said one person was being treated at a hospital with severe burns.

Most of the buildings damaged and razed in the upscale neighborhood of Karachi were under construction and either empty or occupied by the laborers building them, they said. The housing complex was reserved mostly for Naval officers and their families.

World

Rio cops, troops preparing to invade gang haven

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Hundreds of police and soldiers surrounded one of Rio's most dangerous slums after the end of a sunset deadline offered to drug gang members holed up inside, though officials late Saturday did not indicate when they might invade.

A police spokesman emphasized to reporters the superior night-fighting capabilities of the troops and officers. A police battalion commander, however, said there was "zero" chance of a nighttime assault to take on the estimated 600 gang members.

In a week of widespread violence blamed on the drug gangs, authorities on Thursday took control of one slum once thought virtually impenetrable. More than 200 armed gang members fled that offensive and ran to the nearby Alemão complex of a dozen slums that are home to at least 85,000 people, followed by security forces on Friday.

Hundreds of police and soldiers manned positions outside Alemão, sheltering behind armored vehicles and exchanging intermittent, heavy gunfire with the gang members at many of the 44 entrances to the slum, its shacks packed along steep hills.

Many residents of Alemão could be seen streaming down the narrow alleyways Saturday carrying their belongings—chairs, washing machines, bags of clothing—hoping to avoid being caught in the crossfire of the looming invasion.

Police spokesman Henrique Lima Castro Saraiva said during the afternoon that the deadline for the gang members to surrender was "when the sun sets."

"We want them to turn themselves in peacefully," he said. "We do not want a bloodbath, but if they call us to war we will respond with force."

Saraiva said the gunmen would be no match for security forces in a pitched battle, saying they were "exhausted, hungry, thirsty, stressed out" and had not been able to bring in more ammunition.

He also said the soldiers and police were trained and equipped to fight at



People shout asking for help for an unconscious man, who was apparently injured after a house caught fire during a shooting as a result of a police operation, at the Complexo do Alemão slum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010.

night. "We have superior manpower and firepower, and nighttime favors us not them," he said.

A police battalion commander, however, said fighting would come during the day.

"The probability of that being done is zero," commander Waldir Pires told reporters outside the slum when asked about a big night invasion.

He did not rule out, however, smaller nighttime incursions into the slum, and the Globo television network reported that at least one armored vehicle was inside the slum soon after night fell.

It was not clear how many gang members turned themselves over to po-

lice, though by mid-afternoon 16 men had accepted the police offer. One of them was allegedly the right-hand man to the leader of Alemão's drug traffickers, said Allan Turnowski, the chief of the investigative branch of the police. Two other men were shot and arrested as they tried to escape.

Six wives or girlfriends of traffickers also had been arrested, Turnowski said.

Ten inmates suspected of orchestrating vehicle burnings and mass robberies early in the week in a campaign meant to scare residents and warn law enforcement away from their turf were transferred to federal, maximum security prisons away from Rio, according

to a spokesman for the Rio state public safety department.

Saturday's siege followed a night that saw intense exchanges of gunfire, filling the dark sky with bright streaks as bullets whizzed in and out of Alemão. Soldiers in camouflage, black-clad police from elite units and regular police held their ground at the entrances to the complex where more than 85,000 people live, according to the Brazilian government.

The standoff comes after a week of widespread violence in Rio, with more than 100 cars and buses set on fire and at least 35 deaths, mostly suspected traffickers.

Authorities say the gangs are reacting to a 2-year-old police campaign that has pushed the criminals out of slums where they have long ruled with impunity. It's an effort to secure Rio before the city hosts the finals of the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics.

Rio de Janeiro's governor, Sergio Cabral, has vowed repeatedly to break the back of drug gangs that have ruled hundreds of shantytowns in the city of 6 million people—and he and other officials say now is the turning point in that effort.

Vila Cruzeiro, a slum neighboring Alemão, was occupied by police Thursday. Video from Globo TV's helicopter that day showed about 200 heavily armed men running from Vila Cruzeiro across the green hilltop that separates it from Alemão.

A man who was born and raised in Vila Cruzeiro and still lives there with his mother said that "the peace we used to have is back now." He welcomed officers when they took the hillside, and wanted them to set up permanent posts to keep control of the community.

"Those of us who work, who are not involved with the (drug) traffic, we have nothing to fear," said the man, who didn't want to be identified for fear of retaliation, because he wasn't sure law enforcement would be able to hold on.

The human rights organization Amnesty International complained that police have been too heavy-handed.

Tijuana top cop who fought cartels is out of a job



Leyzaola

T I J U A - NA, Mexico (AP)—Julian Leyzaola tried with unprecedented zeal to end the grip of drug cartels on one of

Mexico's most notoriously corrupt police forces: In two years as top cop, he blanketed key parts of Tijuana with vetted officers, new patrol cars and military commanders, while purging hundreds of allegedly corrupt cops.

The retired army officer survived a drug-gang assassination campaign that killed dozens of his officers. He says he rejected an \$80,000-a-week offer from an emissary of Mexico's most-wanted drug lord, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán.

Now he's out of a job.

Mayor-Elect Carlos Bustamante said he will appoint Leyzaola's closest aide, Gustavo Huerta, as public safety secretary when his term begins Tuesday. Huerta, 42, knows Tijuana and is positioned to build on recent successes, Bustamante's spokeswoman said.

Leyzaola has been praised by President Felipe Calderón, U.S. Ambassador Carlos Pascual, U.S. law enforcement and Tijuana's business elite for standing up to the cartels and bringing order in the face of the city's worst drug violence.

Yet the state's human rights ombudsman accuses Leyzaola of beating some people suspected of killing cops. Some officers he arrested for corruption have been let go for lack of evidence and say they were tortured in custody. Huerta was also named in one complaint filed by several officers.

Leyzaola says the allegations come from critics who don't like his get-tough approach.

"The reality is that we needed extreme measures to restore order," he told officers last September after the human rights report came out. "That's what we did. It was necessary."

Mexico's local police forces are often bribed to be the eyes and ears of drug cartels, yet most police chiefs won't attack the gangs, noting that organized crime is a federal responsibility. They tend instead to focus on traffic violations, car thefts, assaults and home invasions.

That hands-off approach favors the cartels, says Daniel Sabet, a visiting professor at Georgetown University who studies Mexico's local police forces.

"You can't just shrug your shoulders and say it's not our jurisdiction," he said. "If there's an organized crime guy with an AK-47, you have to make that arrest."

Progress made on protecting sharks, groups say

PARIS (AP)—An international conservation conference in Paris made progress Saturday on protecting sharks but didn't do anything to save the Atlantic bluefin tuna, which has been severely overfished to feed the market for sushi in Japan, environmental groups said.

Delegates from 48 nations spent 11 days in Paris haggling over fishing quotas for the Atlantic and Mediterranean, poring over scientific data and pitting the demands of environmentalists against those of the fishing industry.

Conservation groups said delegates took steps in the right direction with moves to protect oceanic whitetip sharks and many hammerheads in the Atlantic, though they had hoped for more. Sharks were once an accidental catch for fishermen but have been increasingly targeted because of the growing market in Asia for their fins, an expensive delicacy used in soup.

WWF, Greenpeace, Oceana and the Pew Environment Group all strongly criticized the 2011 bluefin quotas set by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, or ICCAT, which manages tuna in the Atlantic and Mediterranean as well as species that have traditionally been accidental catches for tuna fishermen.

Environmental groups had hoped to see bluefin fishing slashed or suspended, saying illegal fishing is rampant in the Mediterranean and that scientists don't have good enough data to evaluate the problem.

The commission agreed to cut the bluefin fishing quota in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 13,500 to 12,900 metric tons annually—about a 4 percent reduction. It also agreed on measures to try to improve enforcement of quotas on bluefin, prized for its tender red meat.

Sergi Tudela, head of WWF Mediterranean's fisheries program, attacked the "measly quota reduction." Oliver Knowles, Greenpeace oceans campaigner, complained that "the word 'conservation' should be removed from ICCAT's name."

Russell F. Smith, representing the U.S. delegation, told The AP, "I think we made some progress. I wish we'd made more."

Meanwhile, the CNPMM French fishing industry union praised the decision, saying "reason prevailed."

The international commission's committee of scientists had said keeping the status quo was acceptable, but environmentalists say there is so much unreported fishing that doing so is irresponsible.

Japan buys nearly 80 percent of the annual Atlantic bluefin catch. Top-grade sushi with fatty bluefin can go

for as much as 2,000 yen (\$24) a piece in high-end Tokyo restaurants.

While the focus of the Paris meeting was tuna, sharks have become a growing concern. Environmentalists say there are disastrously inadequate rules on shark capture.

Although there are elaborate international fishing regulations and quotas for other types of fish, sharks have long been an afterthought, even though some species have declined by 99 percent, Oceana said.

The international commission banned fishermen from catching and retaining oceanic whitetip sharks. It voted to limit the catch of several types of hammerhead sharks and to require countries to keep data on shortfin mako sharks.

Delegates also decided that Atlantic fishermen will now be required to carry special gear to remove hooks from sea turtles.

Focus

One scientist's hobby: recreating the ice age

CHERSKY, Russia (AP)—Wild horses have returned to northern Siberia. So have musk oxen, hairy beasts that once shared this icy land with woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats. Moose and reindeer are here, and may one day be joined by Canadian bison and deer.

Later, the predators will come—Siberian tigers, wolves and maybe leopards.

Russian scientist Sergey Zimov is reintroducing these animals to the land where they once roamed in millions to demonstrate his theory that filling the vast emptiness of Siberia with grass-eating animals can slow global warming.

“Some people have a small garden. I have an ice age park. It’s my hobby,” says Zimov, smiling through his graying beard. His true profession is quantum physics.

Climate change is felt most sharply in the Arctic, where temperatures are warming faster than anywhere else on the planet. Most climate scientists say human activity, especially industrial pollution and the byproducts of everyday living like home heating and driving cars, is triggering an unnatural warming of the Earth. On Monday, negotiators representing 194 countries open a two-week conference in Cancun, Mexico, on reducing greenhouse gases to slow the pace of climate change.

Zimov is trying to recreate an ecosystem that disappeared 10,000 years ago with the end of the ice age, which closed the 1.8 million-year Pleistocene era and ushered in the global climate roughly as we know it.

He believes herds of grazers will turn the tundra, which today supports only spindly larch trees and shrubs, into luxurious grasslands. Tall grasses with complex root systems will stabilize the frozen soil, which is now thawing at an ever-increasing rate, he says.

Herbivores keep wild grass short and healthy, sending up fresh shoots through the summer and autumn. Their manure gives crucial nourishment. In winter, the animals trample and flatten the snow that otherwise would insulate the ground from the cold air. That helps prevent the frozen ground, or permafrost, from thawing and releasing powerful greenhouse gases. Grass also reflects more sunlight than forests, a further damper to global warming.

It would take millions of animals to change the landscape of Siberia and effectively seal the permafrost. But left alone, Zimov argues, the likes of caribou, buffalo and musk oxen multiply quickly. Wherever they graze “new pastures will appear ... beautiful grassland.”

The project is being watched not only by climate scientists but by paleontologists and environmentalists who have an interest in “rewilding.”

“This is a very interesting experiment,” said Adrian Lister, of the Natural History Museum in London. “I think it’s valid from an ecological point of view to put back animals that did formerly live there,” he told AP Television News. He disapproved of suggestions to rewild nonnative species—for example, relocating elephants and rhinos to the American plains.

Zimov began the project in 1989, fencing off 160 square kilometers (40,000 acres) of forest, meadows, shrub land and lakes. It is surrounded by another 600 square kilometers (150,000 acres) of wilderness.

It is an offshoot of the Northeast Science Station, which he founded and where he has lived for 30 years. Already icebound by October, the park is 40 kilometers (25 miles) inland from the station, accessible only by boat in summer and by snow vehicles after the rivers freeze.

A Russian scientist is trying to recreate an ecosystem that disappeared 10,000 years ago with the end of the ice age, which closed the 1.8 million-year Pleistocene era and ushered in the global climate roughly as we know it.

By ARTHUR MAX
ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this Oct. 25, 2010 photo, semi-wild Yakutian horses are seen at the Pleistocene Park, a 40,000 acre wilderness in northern Siberia, Russia.



In this photo taken Oct. 25, 2010 young musk oxen are seen at the Pleistocene Park, a 40,000 acre wilderness in northern Siberia, Russia.



In this photo taken Oct. 26, 2010 Russian scientist Sergey Zimov walks past a research building at the Northeast Science Station near Chersky, Russia.

A 32-meter (105-foot) tower inside the park gives constant readings of methane, carbon dioxide and water vapor. The data feeds into a global monitoring system overseen by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Zimov’s research on permafrost, greenhouse gas emissions and mammoth archaeology has attracted world scientists to his laboratories, a small cluster of cabins and a tiny chapel on a rocky bluff above a channel of the Kolyma River. A 20-bed barge is used for field trips in summer, and a \$100,000 hovercraft is on order. Zimov sometimes uses an old Russian tank to bring supplies from the Chinese border, 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) away.

Part of the station’s attraction—and deterrence—is its remoteness. It is 6,600 kilometers (4,000 miles) and eight time zones east of Moscow. The nearby town of Chersky, with some 5,000 people, has few amenities, and the nearest city, Yakutsk, is a 4-1/2 flight. Many researchers, particularly Americans, prefer to work in Alaska or northern Canada, which are more accessible.

“Most of the Arctic is in Russia, and yet most of the Arctic research isn’t,” said Max Holmes, of Woods Hole Research Center in Massachusetts, director of the Polaris Project, which has sent undergraduates to the station for the last three summers.

Zimov started the park with a herd of 40 Yakutian horses, a semi-wild breed with a handsomely long mane that is raised by Yakuts and other native people for their meat. Short, sturdy and broad-backed, they survive harsh Siberian winters with the help of a furry hide, thick layers of fat and the ability to paw through a meter (3 feet) of snow to forage.

Of his first herd, Zimov said 15 were killed by wolves and bears, 12 died from eating wild hemlock that grows in the park, and two slipped through the perimeter and made their way back some 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) to their original pastures.

But he bought more. Now the horses have learned to avoid poisonous plants and to resist predators. Over the last three years, more colts were born and survived than horses lost.

The challenge is to find the right balance between grazers and predators, and how to help his animals get through their first winters.

His workers still give occasional buckets of grain to the horses to supplement their diet with salt. About half the horses come regularly to the cabin where a caretaker stays year-round. The other half are rarely seen except for their tracks.

Zimov also has had problems with the moose that he brought inside his enclosure. Moose still live in small numbers in surrounding forests, and the males jump back and forth over the 6-foot-high fence.

In September he traveled to a nature reserve on Wrangel Island, about five hours by boat across the East Siberia Sea, and brought back six 4-month-old musk oxen. One died a few weeks later. The others are kept in a small enclosure and fed hay until they can fend for themselves.

His objective is to see whether a thriving population of grazing animals will regenerate grasslands that disappeared long ago, which would slow and even halt the accelerating pace of permafrost thaw. So far, he says, the results are encouraging.

Today he has 70 animals in the park. He wants thousands to restock Siberia. To bring 1,000 bison from North America would cost \$1 million, Zimov says, a small price to pay.

“If permafrost melts, 100 gigatons of carbon will be released this century,” he said. “What’s \$1 million? One regular grant.”

Health & Fitness

Best diabetes fitness plan: aerobics plus weights

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—People with diabetes should mix aerobics with weight training to get the best results in lowering blood sugar, a new study suggests. The combination worked best for weight loss too, compared to aerobics or weight training alone.

Blood sugar is fuel to muscles, and more sugar is burned during aerobic activity. Weight training builds more muscle, and both activities change muscle proteins in ways that enhance the process.

"It's clear that doing both aerobic and strength training is superior to either alone," said lead author Dr. Tim Church of Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, La. "It's almost like taking two different drugs."

Patients in the study, published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical As-

sociation, achieved the results over nine months, exercising three days a week for about 45 minutes each session.

"People can manage this amount of exercise," said Laurie Goodyear of Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, who wasn't involved in the new study but does similar research. "They didn't have to go on a diet. This was purely an exercise effect."

The researchers' goal was to test three exercise programs that doctors could realistically recommend and patients could stick with. They compared aerobics alone, weight training alone and a combination. U.S. guidelines recommend aerobics and weight training combined for all adults.

All three groups worked out for about the same amount of time. A fourth group of patients was offered only weekly stretching and relaxation classes for further comparison. The study was completed by 245 people with diabetes.

Led by trainers, patients walked on a treadmill that raised the uphill grade by 2 percent every two minutes for the aerobics. Weight training, also supervised, was done on machines that worked muscles in the upper body and legs, with more weight added as partici-



Deidra Atkins-Ball, 44, walks in Forest Park Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010, in Baton Rouge, La.

pants increased their strength.

"It gave me a lot more energy. That was one of the first things I noticed," said Deidra Atkins-Ball, 44, a biology professor, diagnosed with diabetes a year before she joined the aerobics-weights group.

A distant aunt with diabetes lost both legs and her vision to the disease. Too much blood sugar can damage nerves, eyes, the heart and blood vessels.

"I remember as a kid having to do things for her, going to the store for her," Atkins-Ball said.

How to... behave after a sleepless night

By ALISON JOHNSON
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

After a night of tossing and turning, the next day is exhausting—and seemingly endless. Sleep specialists say you can feel a bit better, and improve your odds of a good sleep the next night, with these steps:

Don't hit the caffeine hard.

In fact, cut off all caffeine after 2 p.m. "Caffeine may increase irritability, make falling asleep at night difficult or cause frequent waking during the night," says Dr. Martha Boulos, a neurologist at the Sleep Disorders Center at Sentara CarePlex Hospital in Hampton, Va. "Then you can fall into a bad cycle and mess up your whole week of sleep."

Be careful about driving.

Lack of sleep affects reaction time and focusing ability. If you're really dragging, try to get a ride.

Drink plenty of water.

Dehydration makes you even sleepier. Just go easy in the evening to prevent nighttime urination.

Eat small, healthy meals.

That way, your body won't have to put much energy into digestion. Vegetables and fruits are great for keeping you well hydrated.

Be smart about naps.

If you really need some shut-eye, limit naps to 20 or 30 minutes and don't snooze after 4 p.m. Alternatives to napping: get some exercise, listen to fast-paced music, splash cold water on your face or socialize with friends.

Do something new.

A change in routine—starting a project, for example, or trying a different exercise class—can help you stay alert.

Stay cool.

Turn down the heat, keep a window open and dress lightly. Warmer temperatures—think hot baths—make you drowsier.

Unwind at night.

Take a hot bath (see above), listen to soothing music or read. If sleep troubles continue for a week or two, talk to your primary care doctor.

"It really scared me."

The researchers found that only the group that combined aerobics and weights both lowered their blood sugar and lost weight, although all three fitness groups reduced their waist sizes.

Fewer patients in the combo group started taking new diabetes drugs than in the other groups. Decisions on medications were left up to the patients' regular doctors during the study.

Forty-one percent of the pa-

tients in the combo group either decreased their diabetes medications or lowered their average blood sugar as measured by a common blood test, compared to 26 percent for weights only, 29 percent for aerobics only and 22 percent in the non-exercise group.

The blood sugar reduction achieved by the combo group was enough to reduce the risk of heart attacks, strokes and other complications, the researchers wrote, citing earlier studies.

OUR HEALTH

Awareness and quick action vital in strokes

By JANE GLENN HAAS
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

A stroke is a medical emergency.

If you develop the symptoms, you should call 911 immediately, says Dr. Michael Cummings, head of the stroke prevention program at Mission Hospital.

To be effective, treatment has to be done within five hours after symptoms develop.

Q: What are "stroke centers"?

A: At the centers, TPA, a clot-busting drug, is given intravenously. In many cases we can dissolve the clot that is occluding the artery or blood vessel in the brain and restore normal flow. But this drug can only be given within 4 1/2 hours after the onset of symptoms, so persons with stroke symptoms must be taken to one of the centers immediately.

Q: What are stroke symptoms?

A: The common symptoms are weakness or numbness on one side of the body, slurred speech and inability to comprehend and get words out. The person could have a headache or no pain at all.

Q: Why would there be any question about taking someone with these symptoms to the hospital immediately?

A: Until recently, there was not much we could do. Patients once felt there was no point at all in going to the hospital. We have much better treatments today. In fact, we think we can prevent as many as 80 percent of all strokes. So we want people to recognize the symptoms, including children.

In fact, there is a cartoon video we wish all children would watch titled "Stroke Heroes Act Fast." You can access it at youtube.com.

Q: What if you don't get to the hospital within four hours? No hope?

A: Other treatments can be given six to eight hours after the stroke onset. There are two devices—the "mercy retriever" basically grabs the clot and pulls it out, and the "penum-

bra device" basically goes into the artery and sucks the clot out. Not everyone qualifies for these treatments.

Q: What is your major concern about stroke as far as the public is concerned?

A: We want people to know it is the No. 1 cause of adult disability and the number three cause of death.

We want to educate everyone, even children, so they will do the right thing and call 911.

Q: Don't most people recognize something is wrong?

A: Not really. In many cases, a person doesn't recognize the symptoms or maybe wakes up and feels one side is weak or numb but because there is no pain, a person thinks they slept on it wrong.

And many people don't know we have acute treatments available. Heart attacks get more publicity.

Strokes also can be subtle—like a little slurred speech.

Q: Is there a common type of stroke?

A: Ischemic stroke is the most common. About three-quarters of all strokes fall into this category. It is made up of a blood clot that occludes an artery in the brain.

The part of the brain that is dependent on that artery for blood supply starts to die.

Another quarter of the strokes are hemorrhages or bleeds in the brain. Usually in this case an artery in the brain bursts and blood enters the brain.

Q: And if a person makes it to a stroke center in time?

A: There is no guarantee the person will not have a lasting disability—we're not that good yet—but we can minimize the amount of damage.

Q: Who is most at risk?

A: Persons with high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, hypertension, obesity. Same as a heart attack.

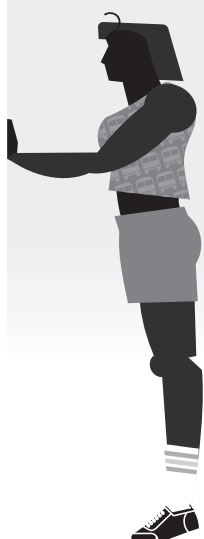
The best treatment is quick response.

Jane Glenn Haas writes for The Orange County (Calif.) Register. E-mail her at jghaas@cox.net.

Personal Trainer

How to use weights

Some simple guides for anyone who would like to try free weights at a gym or health club but doesn't know how to begin:

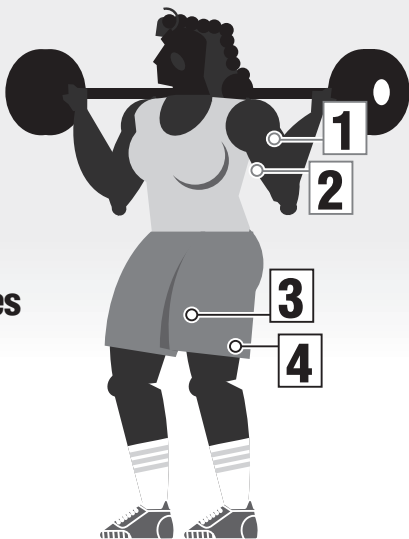


Warm up
Stretch for five to 10 minutes

Work big muscles first
Legs, chest and back muscles require heavy workloads

Work opposing pairs of muscles

- 1 Biceps
- 2 Triceps
- 3 Quadriceps
- 4 Hamstrings



Work slowly and steadily

To prevent injuries, lift and lower weights in a controlled way

Breathe continuously

Holding your breath raises blood pressure, can cause cramping

Use muscles' full range of motion

Muscles not extended and contracted fully may lose flexibility

Rest between sets

One to two minutes of rest restore muscles' energy

Cool down

Run in place or repeat warm-up

Keep a progress record

Write down number of repetitions, sets and amount of weight



Life & Style



In this file photo taken Nov. 23, 2010, a woman looks at a DKNY holiday window display, in New York.

AP

12 holiday money mistakes to avoid

CHICAGO (AP)—The holiday season is full of pitfalls that can drain your bank account.

If you're not careful, you can end up taking a year to pay for all the spending. More than 13 million shoppers are still paying off last year's holiday debts, according to Consumer Reports.

It's fine to cut back on gifts if your finances are stretched thin. But if you plan to join the holiday shop-a-palooza, remember that it's not going against the holiday spirit to keep your bottom line in mind.

"You have to be smart," says Gail Cunningham of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling. "Know how much you can spend in advance and don't get caught up in the holiday moment."

Regardless of the size of your bank account, you'll save plenty if you can avoid common holiday traps. Some are laid by retailers hungry for cash while others are simply a result of poor planning.

Here's a look at 12 holiday money mistakes to avoid:

1. DISCOUNT FIXATION.

Retailers advertise deep discounts to get you to bite. But don't take them at their word without comparing prices. A store's sale price may reflect a markdown from the regular price, but there's no guarantee the manufacturer's suggested retail price isn't actually lower. Think more about the item you're buying.

"The stupidest thing people do is focus more on price than on quality," says Dan de Grandpre, editor-in-chief of Dealnews.com. "Especially on Black Friday. You see really low prices because in many cases it's cheap stuff."

Avoid unfamiliar brands, be wary of the cheap version of name brands and don't go crazy for bogus bargains on footwear, apparel, power tools or anything else, cautions Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst at the NPD Group.

2. NO BUDGET.

Skipping a holiday spending budget is a sure-fire way to overspend. Make a list that includes amounts for each person you want to buy a gift for and stick to it. Be sure to create an overall budget

that factors in other holiday-related expenses. Without a plan, you'll get caught up in the hype and go for the feel-good purchase.

The American Financial Services Association Education Foundation offers an online worksheet to help you create a holiday spending plan; visit <http://www.afsaef.org/HolidaySpending.cfm>. Besides planning your gift list, it helps you track spending on decorations, cards, travel and entertaining.

3. DEBIT DANGERS.

Debit cards carry the advantage of taking money from your account and not saddling you with future payments. But using them on big items is risky because they don't offer the purchase protections that credit cards do. For instance, if you fail to report any misuse of your bank account within two days, you may be liable for the first \$500 billed to your debit card instead of the first \$50.

If you have a problem with a purchase you made on a debit card, you may eventually get your money back. But it will be much more trouble and take longer than if a credit card had been used, according to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

4. RETURN POLICY MISSTEPS.

Tossing away receipts can be costly. Their obvious value is for exchanges or returns, but there's another plus too: If the price is lowered after you buy an item, a receipt should enable you to get a credit for the difference. Be aware that return policies are changing, however, and retailers are increasingly refusing some returns or giving gift cards for the amount in question. Certain stores are particularly diligent about tracking returns. If your credit card shows you return items too often, you may be stuck, according to de Grandpre. Also make sure you understand a website's return policy if you're shopping online.

5. BEING LOW-TECH.

Smart phones are changing how we shop. Scores of consumers are following their favorite brands and retailers on social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook, and retailers are taking full advantage.

It's much easier for businesses to launch and retract deals online where matching inventory with demand is less of a challenge. Coupons and last-minute offers can arrive as e-mail alerts or through social network accounts. Smart phone apps like Coupon Sherpa also provide in-the-moment help. It enables iPhone users to search coupons by category or store name, and find the nearest location. According to Deloitte Research, nearly one in five shoppers plans to use a cell phone during the shopping process.

6. EXTENDED WARRANTIES.

Here's when to buy an extended warranty, says Greg Daugherty, executive editor of Consumer Reports: "Basically never." The manufacturer's warranty should protect you against any defect for up to a year, and the cost of protection beyond that generally isn't worth it. Instead of wasting anywhere from tens to hundreds of dollars on an extended warranty, put some extra cash in your emergency fund to help cover possible repairs or replacements.

7. BLACK FRIDAY BLUNDERS.

Black Friday can be a shopper's dream. But long lines and overzealous crowds can really wear you down and make it harder to spend wisely. So map out a plan in advance and read the fine print on early-morning doorbuster deals. At 5 a.m., you may have a slim chance of landing the lone 45-inch flat-screen TV offered at one store and much better odds for the less spectacular bargain down the road. Planning is important throughout the shopping season. Check the website of each store you plan to visit for the latest bargains, and make a list of what you want to buy from each store.

8. GIFT CARD GAPS.

Give gift cards another look if you've spurned buying them because of fees and other issues. Thanks to recent rule changes, this is the first holiday season in which any gift card purchased cannot expire for at least five years. What's more, inactivity and other fees are banned in the first year. Still, you should beware of buying gift cards through online auction sites or classified ads. They may be counterfeit and could have been obtained illegally.

9. SHIPPING COSTS.

Free shipping is easier than ever to find. Giant retailers are dangling it as an inducement to spend. Wal-Mart, Target and J.C. Penney are among the retailers promoting free shipping programs. More than 1,000 merchants also are participating in Free Shipping Day (<http://www.freeshippingday.com>) on Dec. 17. Even if you don't get free shipping, don't wait too long or you'll blow your budget to ship to out-of-town friends and family.

10. STORE CREDIT CARDS.

Saving 20 percent on a single large purchase might sound worth it. But remember that retailers promote their store cards because they come out ahead on interest and late fees. Interest rates of more than 20 percent are quite common. That's what you'll find at the Gap and Macy's, among many others. Signing up for a store's credit card and then canceling after a short period, even if you pay it off on time, can harm your credit score. If you apply, be very selective.

11. EXPOSING YOUR ID.

Grab deals from the comfort of your living room but take precautions to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft, which costs U.S. consumers more than \$50 billion a year. Only do business with websites that are properly secure. A common indicator that it's OK to enter confidential information is the presence of a padlock in the address bar on the checkout page. This means that the data you input will be properly encrypted for your protection.

12. FEAR OF NEGOTIATING.

Prices frequently are negotiable in electronics, jewelry and department stores. Consumer Reports surveys on haggling have found that shoppers are successful more often than not when they ask for a better price. Just make the negotiations friendly. Daugherty suggests saying something like: "I'd like to buy this but the price is over my budget. Can you do any better?" Often the manager can if the clerk cannot. "You're not going to embarrass yourself," he says. "They've heard it before." Along the same lines, ask the cashier if there's a discount on your big item even if you don't have a current coupon.

First Wills and Kate book published; more in store

LONDON (AP)—First came the royal engagement. Now—10 days later—the first book.

“William and Kate: A Royal Love Story,” by The Sun newspaper’s royal reporter

James Clench was published in Britain Friday, the first in a slew of new titles about the relationship between Prince William and Kate Middleton that publishers hope will set

cash registers chirping in the months before their April 29 wedding at Westminster Abbey.

Published by Harper Collins and The Sun—both owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News

Murakami took 4 years to approve ‘Norwegian Wood’

TOKYO (AP)—The director of a soon-to-be-released movie based on Haruki Murakami’s book “Norwegian Wood” said it took him four years to win the approval of the Japanese author to adapt the popular novel.

Recalling his first meeting with Murakami in 2004, Vietnamese-French director Tran Anh Hung told The Associated Press on Friday that the writer was “quiet, very serious, and very careful.” Murakami finally gave the green light for the adaptation in 2008.

“Murakami protected his work. He gave us two conditions. One is that he would like to see the script. The other one is he would like to know what would be the budget for the movie,” Tran said.

The 47-year-old director said he first read “Norwegian Wood” in 1994. Since then, he had always wanted to make it into a movie.

“I’ve read some other love stories, but this one is very special. The book reveals some shadows that are hidden inside of you,” Tran said. “It is about love and lost love. It’s about mourning. It’s about feelings of making up with life after the death of your loved ones.”



AP
Vietnamese film director Tran Anh Hung answers reporters questions during a interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo, Friday, Nov. 26, 2010.

Set in Tokyo in the late 1960s, “Norwegian Wood” is about Watanabe, a university student who is torn between two women, Naoko, the girlfriend of his best friend who committed suicide, and Midori, a self-confident and independent woman.

Naoko is tormented by the death of her boyfriend, and ends up in a secluded mental institution before hanging herself. The character is played by Rinko Kikuchi, who was nominated for an Oscar for her sup-

porting role in “Babel.”

Model Kiko Mizuhara makes her film debut as Midori. Japanese actor Kenichi Matsuyama plays Watanabe.

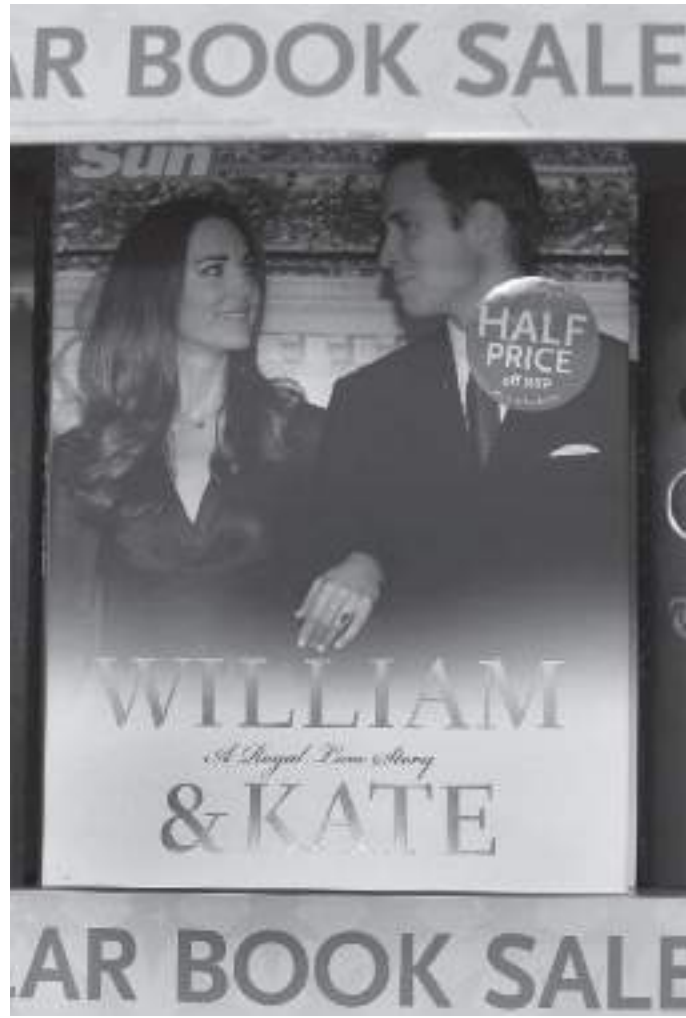
“In fact, in every woman, there are two things—Naoko and Midori,” Tran said. “Naoko has dark sides. She is poisonous, and she is dangerous. She brings you to dark sides of life, like death.”

Tran called Midori “a wife.” “She is tender. She is someone who is able to go through all the changes of love and life. But it is not the case for Naoko.”

The book, released in Japan in 1987, has sold more than 10 million copies at home and 2.6 million abroad in 36 languages. Its title comes from The Beatles tune, which is the favorite song of one of the novel’s characters.

“Norwegian Wood” was nominated for the Venice Film Festival’s Golden Lion award in September. The movie will open in Japan in December and is scheduled for release in 36 countries.

Tran won the Golden Lion award in 1995 for “Cyclo,” a film that tells the hard-life story of a young rickshaw driver. His first movie, “The Scent of Green Papaya,” took home the Camera d’Or from Cannes and was nominated for an Academy Award. “Norwegian Wood” is his fifth film.



AP
In this Nov. 16, 2010 file photo, Britain’s Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton are seen at St. James’s Palace in London, after they announced their engagement.

Corp.—the book is scattered with photos by Arthur Edwards, the paper’s long-serving royal photographer.

It is one of several books on the royal romance in the works. They include one by celebrity journalist Andrew Morton, whose 1992 book “Diana: Her True Story” rocked the royal family and punctured the image of Princess Diana’s and Prince Charles’ fairy-tale romance with

its details of bulimia, depression and infidelity.

“William and Kate: A Royal Love Story”—due to be published in the U.S. on Dec. 17—is a more reverent affair. It charts the romance between “the boy who would one day be king” and “the middle-class girl who had harbored a crush on him since her school days.”

The book traces “the greatest love story of the century” from

the couple’s first meeting at a university in Scotland. It claims that William’s nickname for Kate was Babykins, while she called him Big Willie.

Publication comes just days after the Nov. 16 engagement announcement—and at the start of the lucrative Christmas book-buying season. Clench had written most of the text in advance and turned out the final 4,000 words in 48 hours.

“The engagement was announced on Tuesday and the book was at the printer on Friday,” said Anna Valentine, senior nonfiction editor at Harper Collins.

It’s an increasingly common phenomenon, speeded by technology—“insta-books” appearing within days of the event they commemorate.

“Publishers have books that are ready to go,” said Cathy Rentzenbrink of U.K. book store chain Waterstone’s. “If Andy Murray won Wimbledon I imagine there would be a book very soon off the press called ‘My Wimbledon’ by Andy Murray.”

Valentine said it’s increasingly important for publishers to be able to move quickly with books about current events. “Newspapers and magazines have been doing it for centuries—but if book publishers are going to remain relevant we have to be able to respond in the same way, and give consumers what they want when they want it.”

TOP TEN

iTunes’ top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending Nov. 22, 2010:

SINGLES:

1. “Forget You (Glee Cast Version) (feat. Gwyneth Paltrow),” Glee Cast
2. “We R Who We R,” Ke\$ha
3. “Forget You,” Cee Lo Green
4. “Firework,” Katy Perry
5. “Raise Your Glass,” Pink
6. “Singing in the Rain / Umbrella (feat. Gwyneth Paltrow) (Glee Cast Version),” Glee Cast
7. “What’s My Name?” Rihanna, Drake
8. “The Time (Dirty Bit),” Black Eyed Peas
9. “Only Girl (In the World),” Rihanna
10. “Like a G6,” The Cataracs, Far East Movement, Dev

ALBUMS:

1. “Loud,” Rihanna
2. “Glee: The Music — The Christmas Album,” (Glee Cast)
3. “Nothing Like This,” Rascal Flatts
4. “What Separates Me from You,” A Day to Remember
5. “Get Closer,” Keith Urban
6. “Abbey Road,” The Beatles
7. “Speak Now,” Taylor Swift
8. “Illuminations,” Josh Groban
9. “My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy,” Kanye West
10. “The Beatles Box Set,” The Beatles

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Keys, Lady Gaga to sign off Twitter for charity



AP
American singer Lady Gaga performs during her concert in Prague, on Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010.

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alicia Keys and Lady Gaga take charity work seriously, and they’re going offline to prove it.

Gaga, Justin Timberlake, Usher and other celebrities have joined a new campaign called Digital Life Sacrifice on behalf of Keys’ charity, Keep a Child Alive. The entertainers plan to sign off of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter on Tuesday, which is World AIDS Day. The participants will sign back on when the charity raises \$1 million.

“It’s really important and super-cool to use mediums that we naturally are on,” Keys said in a phone interview from New York last week.

For the campaign—which also includes Jennifer Hudson, Ryan Seacrest, Kim and Khloe Kardashian, Elijah Wood, Serena Williams, Janelle Monae and Keys’ husband, Swizz Beatz—celebrities have filmed “last tweet and testament” videos and will appear in ads showing them lying in coffins to represent

what the campaign calls their digital deaths.

“It’s so important to shock you to the point of waking up,” Keys said. “It’s not that people don’t care or it’s not that people don’t want to do something, it’s that they never thought of it quite like that.”

The campaign, she said, puts the disease in perspective.

“This is such a direct and instantly emotional way and a little sarcastic, you know, of a way to get people to pay attention,” Keys said.

The foundation, which began in 2003, will accept donations through text messages and barcode technology, which is featured in the charity’s Buy Life campaign. Raised efforts support families affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa and India.

“We’re trying to sort of make the remark: Why do we care so much about the death of one celebrity as opposed to millions and millions of people dying in the place that we’re all from?” said Leigh Blake, the president and co-founder of Keep a Child Alive. “It’s about love and respect and

human dignity,” she added.

Keys said recruiting celebrities was difficult because of scheduling, but “once I got people on the phone and I was able to paint the concept for them, everybody was in.”

Not one person said no, Keys recalled.

“I have a feeling that Gaga is going to raise it all by herself,” Blake said. “She’s got a very, very mobilized fan base and that’s beautiful to watch I think (and) she’s able to draw their attention to these issues that are very important, you know, and that people follow it and act.”

Keys is hoping more people—both famous folks and non-celebs—get involved once the new initiative launches: “It just doesn’t have to be just because you’re a celebrity or something like that. It can be anybody.”

Keys, 29, married rapper-producer Swizz Beatz in July. The two had their first son, Egypt, last month. The Grammy winner said that though her life’s getting busier, being a mother and wife makes her want to help others even more.

Pink celebrates motherhood, career retrospective

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—While Pink's impending motherhood is garnering her plenty of ink, she's got something else to celebrate—10 years in the music business.

The 31-year-old singer recently released "Greatest Hits ... So Far!!!" that chronicles her growth from a potent, big-voiced R&B star to dynamic pop singer and performer. It comes after a year in which she has gotten the most acclaim of her career, including raves for her acrobatic, levitating performance at this year's Grammy Awards.

"The Grammys was for me, it was my a-ha moment. It was one of those nights where you're looking back and you're talking to your grandkids and you're like, 'Yeah, I had that night where everyone stood up and I felt awesome,'" she said in a recent phone interview.

After nearly two years touring the world, Pink has retreated to the Los Angeles-area home she shares with her motocross-racing husband Carey Hart. She's made it clear that being a mother won't change her high-flying ways.

"As soon as the baby can say

'mama,' I'm going on the road," she said almost two weeks later in an e-mail, after announcing her pregnancy. "We are going to be a traveling family gypsy band with garlands in our hair."

The Associated Press: How does it feel to release a retrospective at this point in your career?

Pink: I definitely had mixed feelings. (Laughs.) You know what? I'm happier now than I was when it was first being talked about. I had been putting it off for years, although that sounds pretty funny. I don't feel old enough, I guess.

AP: What made you decide to finally do it?

Pink: At the end of the day, when I get out of my own way, which is what I had to do, it's something to really be proud of, because when I was a little girl, all I wanted to do was make one hit record. To be able to put out an album full of them is pretty damn special.

AP: Over the last year, you've gotten more acclaim. What's your reaction?

Pink: I've been busting my (butt) in Europe and Australia and pretty much everywhere else outside of this country for 10 years playing stadiums and arenas ... and then you come here and play clubs, which is



In this Sept. 13, 2009 file photo, singer Pink and her husband Carey Hart arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

kinda rad because I live here and I like being left alone. But also to constantly still be hearing people go, "Wow, she can really sing." ... I don't know, it's a constant battle, but it keeps me motivated, and the Grammys was that moment where I felt like finally I had been given my due a little bit.

AP: You had a scary accident earlier this year when you fell during your acrobatic act. Was it as scary for you?

Pink: It's hard to complain when you're married to Carey Hart. (Laughs.) ... He basically crashes for a living. ... It hurt a lot and I was worried that I was going to be paralyzed and break my back, and I couldn't feel my legs, and then felt really embarrassed because an entire arena full of people were staring at me. I was fine, I was very lucky.

AP: Were you hesitant about getting back up there?

Pink: No, because I had a show the very next night, so if I wasn't paralyzed then I wasn't canceling because I don't cancel shows.

AP: You're back home now.

Is it a difficult adjustment?

Pink: It's completely strange. I walk around in circles, I clean a lot, I really don't know what to do with myself when I'm not on the road. ... For me, I figure I'm going to take a little break. I want to do a record that's non-radio friendly (laughs) and more akin to that Grammy performance that I had.

AP: Why non-radio friendly?

Pink: Well, I always joke that my favorite artist from the '60s and '70s would have never gotten radio play today, Janis Joplin. You would have never heard probably "Summertime" on the radio. If it's not 3½ minutes long, it ain't getting played. So when I say (non-) radio friendly, I'm just being vague. I wanna go and just write. I want to do to my acoustic rock 'n' roll record, which I always wanted to do since I was a little girl. ... I wanna go to Nashville, I want to go to New York, I want to go all over the place, actually write songs, get a body of work together, and then get musicians together and then record a record like they did in the old days.

Unfaithful young husband is likely to cheat again

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My 24-year-old daughter married her high school sweetheart whom she has been with for nine years. He was unfaithful to her while they were dating. They have been married a year now, and he has been unfaithful several more times during their married life.

She has left him twice. The second time she filed for divorce, but he talked her into taking him back. He promises to be faithful to her now.

They are so young, and I hate to see her live a life with a man who is a cheater. There are no children, and my daughter has a college education. Abby, my question is: After repeated cheating, do men ever become faithful husbands?

SICK WITH WORRY IN MONTANA

DEAR SICK WITH WORRY: Because your son-in-law continued being unfaithful to your daughter more than once, I seriously doubt that he's going to quit. When a man—or woman—forms a pattern of cheating, it rarely stops. I hope your daughter understands that BEFORE having children.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 6-year-old daughter "Kaylee" recently spent a weekend with her grandparents. While she was there, they bought her several gifts.

Today her grandmother called and asked to have one of the gifts back. A friend of hers would like to have the decorative musical instruments she gave to Kaylee. Grandma's idea is to offer to buy something else for my daughter and "trade."

I don't know how to handle this. I can't imagine asking someone to return a present I had given him or her. Kaylee loves the instruments and has been playing with them every day since she received them. However, I think her grandma (my stepmother) will be upset if I don't go along with her plan. Abby, help!

AGHAST IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR AGHAST: Once a gift is given, it belongs to the person who received it. Of course, your stepmother can offer your daughter the idea of a "trade." However, if Kaylee isn't keen on the idea, then you must tell Grandma her idea went over like a lead balloon and her friend is out of luck.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: It will soon be that time of year when adult children will wrack their brains to find Christmas gifts for their elderly parents. Two years ago, my daughter gave me the gift of a lifetime—my pets' lives.

Knowing how much my dog and cats mean to me since I live alone, she and my son-in-law called to say that instead of giving me another knickknack for Christmas, my birthday or Mother's Day, they would pay all my veterinary bills for the life of each pet. It was a welcome surprise and a special, thoughtful gift.

Pets bring companionship and comfort to those of us who live alone on fixed incomes. Knowing they will have the proper veterinary care is, indeed, the gift of a lifetime. Even if you can't assume all the costs of your parents' pets, chipping in on holidays would help a lot.

APPRECIATIVE MOM IN ILLINOIS

DEAR APPRECIATIVE MOM: I agree, and that's why I'm printing your letter. With so many people feeling stressed economically, your letter may provide the "purr-fect" solution to what to get for an older relative.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Report: Actor says he killed 'demon' in his mom

NEW YORK (AP)—An actor says he felt like the character Neo from the movie "The Matrix"—"hearing voices and feeling powerful"—before he allegedly hacked his mother to death with a sword in her New York City apartment.

Michael Brea tells the Daily News in an interview published Friday that he killed what he called "the demon inside her."

He's being held in a hospi-

tal prison ward on murder and other charges.

His relatives issued a statement Friday calling him a "compassionate, gentle, intelligent, spiritual and loving man" who was "not well" before Yanick Brea's death Tuesday. She was 55.

Michael Brea had small roles in ABC's now-canceled show "Ugly Betty" and the movie "Step Up 3D."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Willie Nelson charged with pot possession in Texas

SIERRA BLANCA, Texas (AP)—A U.S. Border Patrol spokesman says country singer Willie Nelson was charged with marijuana possession after 6 ounces was found aboard his tour bus in Texas. Patrol spokesman Bill Brooks says the bus pulled into the Sierra Blanca, Texas, checkpoint about 9 a.m. Friday. Brooks says an officer smelled pot when a door was opened and a search turned up marijuana. Brooks says the Hudspeth County sheriff was contacted and Nelson was among three people arrested. Sheriff Arvin West didn't immediately return a phone message left at his home Friday, but he told the El Paso Times that Nelson claimed the marijuana was his. The singer was held briefly a \$2,500 bond before be-

ing released.

Yoko Ono, son swap memories for Day of Listening

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sean Lennon is finding connections with his 77-year-old mother, Yoko Ono—not about the Beatles or John Lennon—but about her life in an interview broadcast on NPR as part of a national oral history project. In the interview aired Friday, Ono recalls meeting her father for the first time when she was not yet 3 years old. Ono says her mother was from a very rich family, and it made her father feel insecure. Still, Ono says her mother would send her father to work as a banker in a chauffeured car. But he would get out two blocks from his office to walk so he wouldn't be seen with a driver. The 35-year-old Sean Lennon reveals to his mother that he used to do the

same thing when she sent him to school in a limo. Ono says it must be a DNA memory that led to the same experience.

Laura Schlessinger shifts to satellite radio

NEW YORK (AP)—Talk show host Laura Schlessinger won't stay away from radio very long - only a weekend, in fact. Sirius XM Radio said Monday it has a multiyear deal with Schlessinger to bring her "Dr. Laura" advice program to satellite radio in January. Specific terms were not revealed. Schlessinger had said in August she was quitting her syndicated radio program, a week after she apologized for using the N-word on the air 11 times while talking to a black woman, and activists demanded her ouster. She ends her traditional radio program on Friday, Dec. 31. The following Monday, she starts at Sirius.

HBO's 'The Wire' topic of class at Johns Hopkins

BALTIMORE (AP)—The former HBO series "The Wire" is the topic of a new class at Johns Hopkins University, in the city where the drama was based. The class was introduced this semester and uses the Baltimore show as a way to look at the problems big cities in America face. Guest speakers have included former Baltimore commissioner Ed Norris, an actor on the show, and show creator David Simon. The class was taught by Peter Beilenson, an adjunct professor, and uses the 60 episodes of the show as a textbook. The series ran from 2002 to 2008. For their midterm assignment, students visited and wrote about needle-exchange sites and juvenile justice centers. And for their final assignments students will write memos suggesting fixes to city problems.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

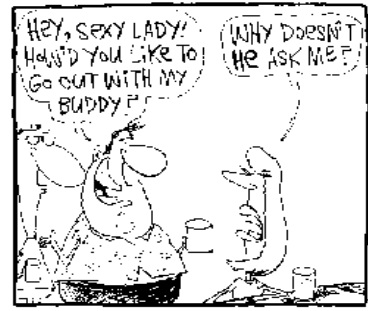


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Harbor boat
4 Com-mand-ment verb
9 Unborn fish
12 Gentle lamb
13 Syna-gogue scroll
14 Sample of
15 Light yellow color
17 Historic time
18 One's years
19 Cajo ed
21 "Das Lied von der Erde" composer
24 Humor writer
25 Cassius Clay, now
26 Used a shovel
28 Mideast nation
31 Disarray
33 Gist

DOWN

11 "Zounds!"
16 Bando
20 Iowa city
21 "I Remember —"
22 Pub orders
23 Zyrtec target
27 Eviscerate
29 Tend texts
30 Profits
32 Thin wedge of wood
34 Implore
37 Drops a sound
39 Warnings
42 Office worker
44 Shade tree
45 Batman's hood
46 Reed instrument
50 Noisy dance style
51 Sort
52 Born
53 A billion years

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 11-29

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33
34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Faris, 34; Don Cheadle, 46; Andrew McCarthy, 48; Howie Mandel, 55

Happy Birthday: Finish what you start before moving on to something new. You will face personal issues that spring up out of nowhere, so leave room in your schedule to deal with such matters. Travel is not favored and delays and mishaps can be expected. Focus on what's important and it will be easier to keep your temper under control. Your numbers are 3, 11, 15, 26, 29, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't waste time arguing about something you cannot change. Be prepared for whatever comes your way and realize that responding, instead of reacting, will bring you much closer to getting what you want. A tight budget is a must. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A greater understanding regarding your position and how far you can go in the future will help you determine if you should make a move now or stay put. Humanitarian causes will lead to new friendships and a chance to make self-improvements. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look over all the information made available before you react harshly to something or someone. Unnecessary purchases may be a quick fix for depression but, in the end, will only add to debt. Hard work and innovation are your best solutions. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on home, family and keeping a stellar reputation. Consider any responsibilities thrown at you to be a test that allows you to show off and impress others. The way you handle situations will

lead to a position in the near future. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Impulsive action due to emotional upset will not pay off in the end. Concentrate more on work and productivity and less on spending money. Face any challenge with confidence and play to win. Avoid useless arguments. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll have to juggle things around if you don't want to upset the people with whom you spend most of your time. An emotional matter will catch you off guard but that doesn't mean you should let anyone take advantage of you. Act fast, but not in anger. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There will be a lot of information left unsaid. Dig deep before you make a decision. You have to be fully aware of what is going on behind the scenes. An old friend can give you an intuitive look at what you should be aware of. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Saying and not doing will lead to a poor reputation that can hinder your chance to advance. Any show of indecision or frustration will work against you. An unusual alteration at home will help feed your creativity. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stay put. You will only make matters worse if you push your way in where you don't belong. Travel and communications will not be your strong point. Challenging circumstances are apparent and remaining calm is essential. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Caution must be maintained, especially where institutions and financial matters

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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are concerned. Look after your own statements and personal paperwork if you want to make sure that everything is taken care of properly before year's end. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have to dedicate time, space and your skills to something that will help you make gains financially, legally or contractually. Don't be afraid to speak up in your defense. Timing is crucial. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Observe but don't be too quick to move. You have to be sure you have the facts. Playing Russian roulette regarding your personal or professional partnerships will end in disaster. Control your emotions. ***

Birthday Baby: You are emotional and always looking for adventure. You are charming, eager to lend a helping hand and take pride in finding solutions to problems.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6			1	8	4	9		
	1				6		5	
			9	5			3	7
	7			4				3
2		6				9		4
4			8			5		
7	3			6	9			
5		4					6	
	6	8	7	2				1

Difficulty Level ★

11/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

4	8	7	2	9	1	5	3	6
1	2	3	6	5	4	7	9	8
5	9	6	8	3	7	2	1	4
2	5	4	1	7	8	9	6	3
9	3	8	5	2	6	4	7	1
7	6	1	3	4	9	8	2	5
6	1	9	7	8	5	3	4	2
8	7	2	4	6	3	1	5	9
3	4	5	9	1	2	6	8	7

Difficulty Level ****

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters spell the Wonderword.

'BOARDWALK EMPIRE' (TV SERIES)

Solution: 9 letters

H	S	T	H	O	M	P	S	O	N	A	I	C	U	L
C	R	S	E	N	A	D	A	P	T	N	L	R	E	U
O	E	M	S	W	I	W	W	L	K	J	E	E	L	C
N	I	O	E	O	N	G	A	E	C	O	T	T	A	K
E	P	O	C	H	E	N	H	L	I	O	O	S	G	Y
C	S	R	R	S	T	R	L	T	C	G	H	B	E	K
N	R	K	O	I	H	S	B	A	C	A	H	O	L	C
E	E	C	H	A	E	E	U	V	L	P	M	L	U	
R	T	A	S	I	S	R	E	S	I	U	O	I	N	
E	S	B	L	G	B	G	I	G	C	S	B	N	N	
T	G	E	K	H	E	I	S	F	E	E	H	S	E	
H	N	R	E	L	A	E	D	I	S	I	M	H	I	
F	A	P	O	R	U	I	F	I	O	S	O	I	T	
M	G	N	I	G	G	E	L	T	O	O	B	V	R	A
E	Y	C	O	R	R	U	P	T	I	O	N	E	E	P

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Adapt, A. Capone, Alcho, Atlantc, Backrooms, Booz, Bootlegging, Boss, Buscemi, City, Corruption, Dealer, Elias, Enoch, Gangsters, Hgr, Hire, Hote, Illegal, Lavisr, Lucaro, Lucky, Main, Mark, Mohster, Move, Nightclubs, Nucky, Patten, Pers, Poor, Prohibition, Protagee, Ru a, Scorse, Snerfis, Show, Terence, Thoma, Thompson, Wah, berg, Weigh

Last Saturday's Answer: Party

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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WHATZIT Solution: Leftovers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZHU LI HONG)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
SIMON LUCIANO)
Respondent.)

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0499

SUMMON FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2082 box 10002, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 26th day of November, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court



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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No.: 11-002 Opening Date: Friday 11/26/10
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

TECHNICAL MANAGER FOR OIL (TMO)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Executive Director or designee. Position shall be as required by Stipulated Order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. "The TMO shall be primarily responsible for overseeing, all oil spill prevention, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by Stipulated Order. The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues... The TMO will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order."

LOCATION: Administration Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: Pursuant to qualifications, between \$74,989.00 and \$124,985.00 per annum. (Plus negotiable relocation costs to and from the NMI if hired from outside the NMI. Note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the United States.)

POSITIONS: One (1).

CONTRACT: Two-year.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: 1. "Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science or other field related to work in engineering, science or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill, prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations" 2. "Proven management and communication skills" 3. "Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff" 4. "Experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design, and construction" 5. "Further, the TMO should have experience with one or more of the following: oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statements of work; oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements." *Applicants with the following credentials shall be preferred: Master's degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in civil, mechanical, or chemical engineering; Certification in API tank inspection; Management experience of at least ten (10) years in a multi-service utility, public works or petroleum tank farm operation.*

For more information about the position(s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the Human Resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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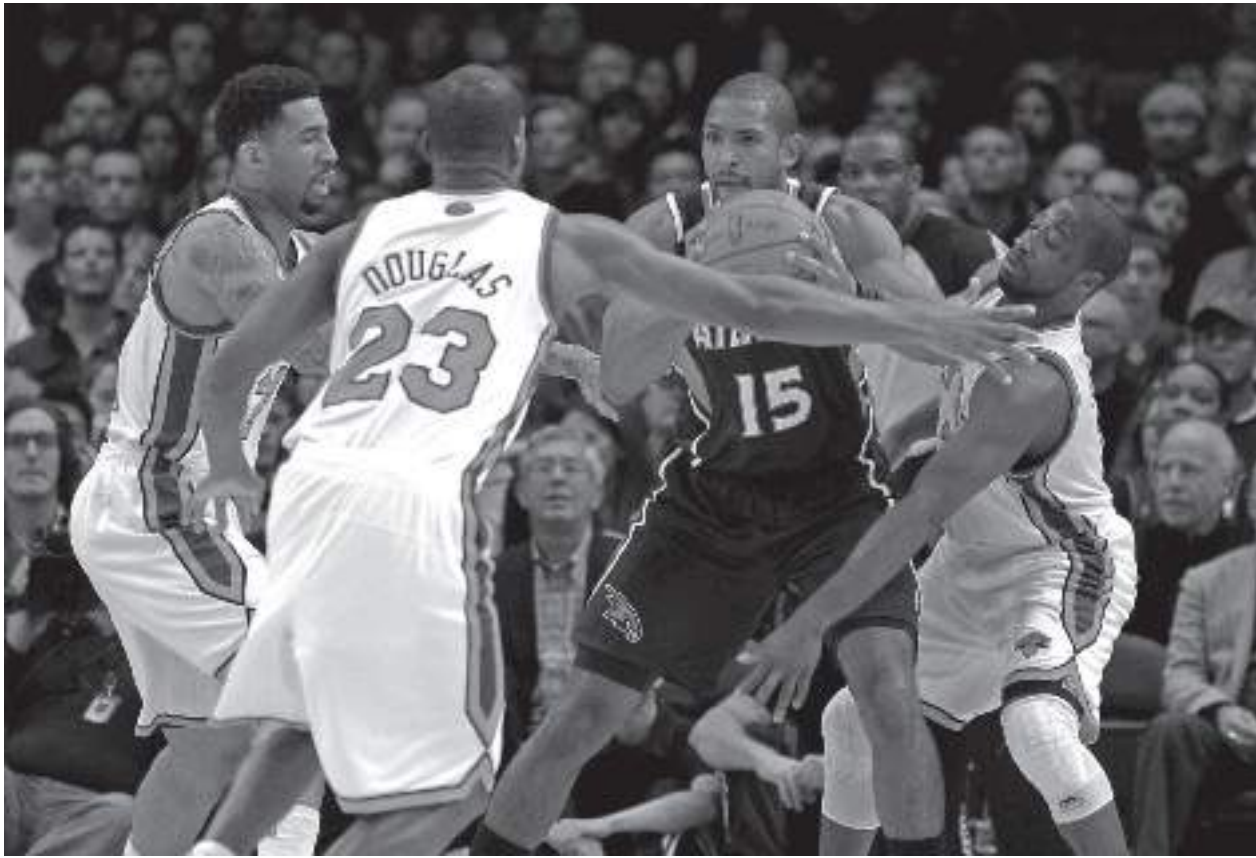
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Hawks snap Knicks' winning streak



AP
New York Knicks' Wilson Chandler (21), Toney Douglas (23) and Raymond Felton (2) surround Atlanta Hawks' Al Horford (15) as he looks to pass during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2010.

NEW YORK (AP) Jamal Crawford scored 21 points as Atlanta snapped New York's winning streak at five games.

Al Horford added 17 points and nine rebounds for the Hawks, who trailed by 18 at the half and closed within four points in the fourth quarter on a driving lay-up by Wilson Chandler and a free throw after the score. The Hawks then scored seven straight on a 3-pointer by Crawford, a hook shot by Horford and his turnaround jumper.

Amare Stoudemire had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who were going for their first six-game winning streak since Larry Brown was the coach, from Jan. 2-13, 2006.

Crawford, who was on the last Knicks team that won sixth straight during the 2006 season, entered the game with 4:43 remaining in the first quarter and gave Atlanta a 24-14 lead with a jumper. He then stole the ball from Raymond Felton and immediately hit a 3-pointer, then moments later scored on a layup.

"It's always fun to come back here," said Crawford, who spent four-plus seasons playing at Madison Square Garden. "After spending most of my career here, it always feels good to come back. To be able to be victorious against a team that's been playing great—they won five in a row—we were aware of that. It's just fun to come out and get a win."

Mavericks 106, Heat 95

At Dallas, Caron Butler scored seven of his 23 points in a key run for Dallas to start the second half as the Mavericks went on to win their fifth straight game, 106-95 over the struggling Miami Heat on Saturday.

Even though LeBron James and Dallas-born Chris Bosh have joined Dwyane Wade in Miami, the Mavericks extended their regular-season dominance over the Heat (9-8).

Dallas has won 13 consecutive games in the series since March 2004, and 16 of 17. That obviously doesn't include the 2006 NBA Finals, when the Heat won in six games after losing the first two.

LeBron says Mavs owner Cuban 'very sly guy'

DALLAS (AP)—When LeBron James was the coveted free agent last summer, he got a few text messages from Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban before making his decision to go to Miami.

Before the Heat played in Dallas for the only time this season, James described Cuban as "a very sly guy" Saturday night.

"He wants to win, he wants best for his team," said James, who along with Dallas-born Chris Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami.

Cuban said his texts to James and the player's business manager Maverick Carter had a simple message.

"When he was making his decision, what I told him, and I told Maverick, was that no team had ever blown up a team of all their core, then added a couple of free agents and won," Cuban said. "It's always taken someone to come into a good team to make it better and put them over the top. That's what I told him."

The Heat arrived in Dallas with a 9-7 record. They beat Philadelphia on Friday night to end a three-game losing streak, but there has been plenty of talk about Miami's woes.

"I'm not trying to get caught up in

it too much," James said. "People are going to have their comments, everyone's going to have a comment about our team, about what we did, about what I did this summer. You hear it and you go forward, don't try to get caught up in it as much."

Miami's leading rebounder, Udonis Haslem, may be out for the season after surgery this week to repair a torn ligament in his left foot.

Asked if he had any interest in the Mavericks last summer, James started his response by saying he gave "a lot of teams" consideration.

"That's one of the teams I looked at, a veteran ball club with a lot of winners on their team," James said. "But I guess you know where I ended up."

Cuban was later asked if he James and the Heat would regret their decisions.

"I have no idea," Cuban said. "The Mavs were 0-4 and ended up winning 67 games, so you just don't know. They can win out ... Hopefully not until starting after we play them in December and tonight."

That 0-4 start to 67 wins for Dallas came in the 2006-07 season, after the Mavericks lost in the NBA Finals against Miami the previous season.

game-winning putback with 4.3 seconds left, and had 11 rebounds to give Orlando a win over Washington.

Quentin Richardson scored 20 for the Magic, who have won seven of their last eight games in Washington.

Gilbert Arenas scored a season-high 31 points, but his floater at the buzzer hit the back of the rim and bounced away.

Nick Young scored 21 points, and Andray Blatche scored 10 points and had 13 rebounds for the Wizards, who ended a three-game home winning streak.

Bucks 104, Bobcats 101

At Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 32 points and made two free throws with 5.7 seconds left to seal a for Milwaukee over Charlotte.

Stephen Jackson was ejected less

than six minutes into the game.

Jackson thought he was fouled and began arguing with referee Eli Roe. The Bobcats' scoring leader with 19.2 points per game, Jackson got two technicals and was done with 7:31 left in the first quarter.

Warriors 104, Timberwolves 94

At Minneapolis, Dorell Wright scored a career-high 30 points and set a franchise record with nine 3-pointers to help Golden State snap a five-game losing streak.

Monta Ellis had 26 points, 10 assists and seven steals in 48 minutes and David Lee returned from an eight-game absence for the Warriors, who won for just the second time since Lee went down with a staph infection in his left elbow on Nov. 10.

Kevin Love had 21 points and 22 rebounds for the Timberwolves, his fourth 20-20 game of the season. The Timberwolves turned the ball over 22 times, leading to 32 Golden State points and negating a 55-32 advantage in rebounds.

Cavaliers 92, Grizzlies 86

At Cleveland, Mo Williams scored 25 points and J.J. Hickson added 16 as Cleveland snapped out of a fourth-quarter offensive funk to beat Memphis.

Williams hit a clutch 10-foot floater with 6.5 seconds left, added a season-high 12 assists and made four 3-pointers for the Cavaliers, who missed their first 13 shots in the fourth, but regrouped and won their seventh straight at home over Memphis.

Bulls 96, Kings 85

At Sacramento, California, Derrick Rose had 30 points, seven assists and seven rebounds for Chicago, which rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Sacramento.

The Bulls trailed by 13 at halftime, but held the Kings to 28 second-half points, outscoring them 27-9 in the fourth.

Luol Deng had 22 points and nine rebounds, and Joakim Noah had 17 points and eight rebounds for the Bulls, who concluded their seven-game road trip that started Nov. 16 with a victory in Houston.

Woods may pitch again



NEW YORK (AP)—Dressed in Sunday red, hands on hips, Tiger Woods stood at the edge of a rocky drop-off and stared at the water below.

"It's what you do next that counts," the Accenture ad said.

For six years, those ads featuring Woods could be found in every corner of the world. There he was in the weeds, on the green, celebrating with a fist pump.

Every billboard oozed power and success:

"We know what it takes to be a Tiger."

"Go on, be a Tiger."

But when Woods ran his sport utility vehicle over a fire hydrant last Nov. 27, unleashing a torrent of tawdry and shocking details about his infidelities, those clever catch phrases quickly became punchlines. Within weeks, Accenture and other sponsors distanced themselves from the golfer who had built a billion-dollar industry on his spectacular success on the course and impeccable image off it. It was part of the fallout from a scandal that eventually cost him his marriage and his No. 1 world ranking.

A year has passed since the infamous crash that started it all, and Woods appears ready to re-enter the marketing game. A survey within the last month to test Woods' appeal produced "very powerful, positive, positive results," his longtime agent, Mark Steinberg, said, adding that he's already engaged in "several constructive conversations."

"We are a society of second chances. That's been proven over the years," Steinberg said. "He's not going to be in any deal until he looks the company in the eye and has a serious conversation with them. 'How are you going to live your life? We want to be part of the redemption, rehabilitation. Are you serious about that?' And he knows that. He's comfortable with it. And he's going to do that."

He has already started.

Woods is tweeting and was a guest last week on ESPN Radio's "Mike & Mike in the Morning" Show. In an op-ed column for Newsweek magazine, his tone was humble and hopeful.

"A smart decision by Tiger and his team to be proactive and get ahead of the one-year story," said David Schwab, a vice president at Octagon specializing in celebrity strategy for brands. "Now those stories will talk about his latest words, goals and plans."

Before the crash, Woods was the standard by which all other megawatt pro stars were measured. He exuded class, excellence and determination. Most importantly he was a winner. Corporations around the world were eager to align themselves with him, even if their business had nothing to do with golf. He was, Forbes estimated last year, the first \$1 billion athlete.

TV ratings rose when he played, and soared when he was in contention on Sunday. He was a staple of TV and print ads. He was Nike Golf, a walking, talking embodiment of the brand. Even when he did ads for other companies, the Swoosh or TW logo was often present.

"Tiger has done a great job breaking the rules of marketing," said Dean DeBiase, an expert in advertising and brand strategy who is featured in the new book "Nike."

After the crash, though, sponsors found themselves being pulled down by the weight of the scandal. Accenture, for example, was the inadvertent butt of jokes, its ad taglines fodder for late-night comics and tabloid websites.

Two weeks after the crash, Accenture dumped Woods.

"Although Tiger had been an effective symbol of Accenture's high-performance business strategy, our research and analysis concluded that the news surrounding his personal issues last year compromised his ability to help us deliver our key messages to the marketplace," the global consulting firm said in a statement when asked to evaluate its decision almost a year later.

Broncos, McDaniels fined \$100K for illegal taping



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The NFL fined the Denver Broncos and coach Josh McDaniels \$50,000 each because the team's video operations director filmed a San Francisco 49ers practice in London last month, breaking league rules.

The NFL investigation determined Steve Scarnecchia took a six-minute video of the walkthrough and presented it that day to McDaniels. The coach declined to view it. Still, the NFL fined both the coach and team because the matter was not promptly reported, as required by the league.

Scarnecchia was also involved in the NFL's last videotaping scandal, dubbed Spygate. After the Patriots were caught videotaping New York Jets coaches sending in signals during a 2007 game, the league's investigation determined New England had violated rules over several seasons. Scarnecchia, who had left the Patriots by the time they were caught, was found to have taken part in the videotaping when he worked for the team in the early 2000s.

Scarnecchia was fired by the Broncos and was notified by Commissioner Roger Goodell that, as a repeat violator of league rules regarding the integrity of the game, he faced a hearing to determine if he would be banned from the NFL.

"We certainly did not view or do anything with the footage, and he was made aware that it was something we didn't condone in our organization," McDaniels said Saturday. "I failed to follow through and report it to the proper individuals in our organization and with the league."

Asked why he failed to report the incident immediately, McDaniels said: "I made a mistake. I made a mistake and I should have done that right away. We felt we handled it the right way by not doing anything with that but I did not follow through with it."



In this Nov. 22, 2010, file photo, Denver Broncos head coach Josh McDaniels talks into his headset during an NFL football game against the San Diego Chargers in San Diego. Since starting out 6-0 in his debut season as a head coach, McDaniels has gone 5-15.

McDaniels also worked for New England, but NFL Executive Vice President Jeff Pash said there was no evidence he was involved with the videotaping there.

The Broncos didn't report this latest incident to the NFL for nearly two weeks, and Scarnecchia remained involved with the team until mid-November. Two hours before the league announced the results of its investigation Saturday, the team said Scarnecchia was on a leave of absence. Later, it said he'd been fired.

A call to a listing for Scarnecchia

went to a voice message that said the mailbox was full.

McDaniels, who worked in New England from 2001-09, hired Scarnecchia in Denver shortly after he became the Broncos' coach 22 months ago.

"When we hired Steve, it was with the understanding that he would come here and do good work," McDaniels said. "In no way did we think this situation or type of situation would come up and be an issue for us or for him."

Broncos chief operating officer Joe Ellis said that when Scarnecchia was hired, the team was aware he had been involved

in Spygate, but not of the specifics.

"He knew full well what was expected from him in terms of the types of behavior we would expect out of him," Ellis said on a conference call.

The videotaping occurred during practices at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 30, the day before the 49ers' 24-16 win over the Broncos. It was the only time the teams worked out on the same field in London.

Ellis said the Broncos promptly notified the NFL after their executives learned of the violation. He declined to reveal how they became aware.

"The Denver Broncos, their ownership, and their executives had their moral compass pointed in the right direction," Pash said.

He added: "I think they've set an example as to how incidents of this type are properly handled."

The NFL determined Broncos executives were told about the videotaping Nov. 8, and told the league about it four days later after an internal review. On Nov. 16, Broncos owner Pat Bowlen, Ellis and team general counsel Rich Slivka met with league officials in New York.

After that meeting, NFL security began its investigation, which included interviews of Broncos personnel and an analysis of laptop computers used by the team's video department. It was confirmed the 49ers' practice had been recorded, and the league retained that tape.

"This incident cuts into the trust and respect our fans, our ticket holders, our community and our fellow competitors have for our organization. ... We will take all steps to ensure that an incident like this never occurs again," Bowlen said in a statement.

Scarnecchia acknowledged to NFL investigators he taped the walkthrough, according to excerpts from a letter Goodell sent to Bowlen.

The letter stated that Scarnecchia maintained that he had not previously

recorded a walkthrough or other practice or "engaged in any other improper videotaping (such as recording coaching signals of an opposing team) since joining the Broncos."

The letter also said Scarnecchia "knew that what he did in London was wrong," that taping the walkthrough was his decision alone and nobody instructed him to record the practice.

In addition, the investigation found that when Scarnecchia offered to show the tape to McDaniels, the coach replied, "No, I'm not doing that." Scarnecchia said he didn't show the tape to any other staff member.

Goodell's letter to Bowlen said that McDaniels was interviewed "under circumstances that would have made it impossible for him to have spoken to Mr. Scarnecchia in advance" and that McDaniels' recollection of events matched Scarnecchia's.

"Although I find no fault with the way the club handled this matter once you and your executives became aware of it, I nonetheless believe that some penalty must be imposed," Goodell wrote. "We have no more important responsibility than preserving the integrity and competitive fairness of the game and avoiding any implication that games are decided by anything other than what takes place on the field."

The letter added: "This appears to be a single incident by an employee who acted entirely on his own."

McDaniels should have immediately notified team executives of what happened, however, the commissioner wrote. Goodell cited a policy in which team executives, head coaches and others are obliged to promptly report violations tied to the integrity of the game. Pash said that as a coordinator and head coach, McDaniels would have been required to file a report with the league at the end of each season that acknowledged the policy.



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota

Twins slugger Justin Morneau held an autograph signing as part of his winter coat drive on Saturday, and the first fan showed up to get in line at 5:30 a.m., about 5 1/2 hours before the event was scheduled to begin.

Morneau's fans, and especially his teammates, are even more eager to see him back on the field.

The 2006 AL MVP said on Saturday that he is feeling better every day as he recovers from a concussion that caused him to miss the last three months of the season and is sure he will be ready to go once spring training begins in February.

"There's not a doubt in my mind I'll be ready for spring, especially with what I've done this week and how it's reacted and how I've felt," Morneau said. "That's something that hasn't even crossed my mind."

It wasn't always so cut and dried.

Morneau was injured on July 7 while sliding into second base in Toronto. What was initially believed to be a minor injury ended up keeping him out for the remainder of the season and Minnesota's first-round playoff loss to the Yankees.

As the effects of the concussion lingered throughout the summer, there was real concern in the organization and some fans were worried

Morneau says he'll be ready for spring training

they may never see his powerful left-handed swing at Target Field again.

But Morneau has started working out hard this week and said that doctors recently put him through another battery of concussion tests.

"It's still improving," Morneau said. "They're encouraging me to workout and do everything you can do there. It's gone well."

Morneau plans to head to his off-season home in Arizona soon to begin strenuous workouts to get his body ready for spring training and, he hopes, a full season. He missed the final month of 2009 because of a back injury and has had to watch the Twins in the postseason for two straight years.

"To have to sit there and watch and feel like you can make a difference, it's very frustrating and very tough," he said.

The Twins sure could have used him. He was hitting .345 with 18 homers and 56 RBIs when he went down and still finished with the fourth-highest home run total on the team despite playing in only 80 games.

Without their big bopper in the cleanup spot, and one of their vocal leaders in the clubhouse, the Twins were swept out of the first round by the Yankees.

Helping matters was that he got to spend more time with his newborn

daughter, whose arrival Morneau called "a very good distraction" to keep his mind off his health.

Even though he is starting to feel better during workouts and exercise, Morneau said he was especially encouraged by how he performed during his appearance at Target Field on Saturday. He sat a table and signed autographs and took pictures with hundreds of fans over a couple of hours and said he felt good the whole time.

"Two months ago I couldn't have come out and sat for that long and signed," he said. "It's come a long ways. It's a lot better. It's not all the way there yet, but it's close."

Morneau and his wife Krista have sponsored the coat drive for a few years now, and this season's event lasts from Nov. 15-Dec. 10, with all the coats being donated to local shelters. Morneau was a finalist this year for the Roberto Clemente Award, given annually to a major league player who combines community service with excellence on the field.

"I feel very blessed and very fortunate," Morneau said. "I get to play a game and I get paid for it. It's a great life. We're very lucky. I noticed early on you can make a difference in people's lives even with small gestures."

Dodgers, Garland agree to \$5M, 1-year deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers completed their starting rotation for 2011 by agreeing to a deal with right-hander Jon Garland.

The \$5 million, one-year contract includes a club option and could be worth \$16 million over two seasons.

Garland joins Clayton Kershaw, Chad Billingsley, Hiroki Kuroda and Ted Lilly to give Los Angeles one of the deepest sets of starters in the major leagues.

The right-hander went 14-12 with a 3.47 ERA in 200 innings for the San Diego Padres in 2010. He is 131-114 with a 4.32 ERA in his 11-season career.

"I can't recall having five that would have the ability to make 30-plus starts and throw as many innings as they do," general manager Ned Colletti said on a conference call Friday night. "I felt we needed to shore up our pitching as best we could and to do it with five starters."

In 2009, Garland played for Arizona and Los Angeles and went 11-12 with a 4.01 ERA. He was acquired by Los Angeles on Aug. 31 for infielder Tony Abreu and went 3-2 with a 2.72 ERA in six starts for the Dodgers.

"I think it's a great ballpark for my style of pitching and I think I have a lot to offer to that team," Garland said on the same conference call.

The 31-year-old can make \$3 million in performance bonuses next year. Los Angeles has an \$8 million team option for 2012 that could become guaranteed depending on his 2011 performance.

He hinted that he might have passed up some multiyear offers to rejoin the Dodgers, saying "if there were (any such deals possible), they weren't the greatest."

Garland has pitched at least 190 innings every season since 2002, his first full year as a starter.

"A lot of teams are worried how I'm going to hold up after stacking 2,000 innings," Garland said.

Colletti viewed Garland's experience and consistency as a positive—he's had double-digit win totals in every season since 2002.

"He's always won his fair share of games throughout the course of the season," Colletti said. "As we said, we set out to improve our rotation, and I think adding Jon kind of caps it off in a good way."

Weekend Sports

Football festival highlights week

Youth football reigned on Saipan last week with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association holding its fall festival in three different fields simultaneously.

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, some 50 U6 strikers had a fun and learning experience at the pitch.

Instead of the usual 5-aside game, U6 strikers from six football clubs had a mini clinic, learning the art of goal keeping and kicking, shooting, and passing the ball.

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, U11 teams played regular 7-aside matches from 8am to 2pm. The U11 festival drew 16 teams and each

played three matches.

The San Antonio Elementary School Field was the venue of the fall festival for U8 teams. Ten teams joined the festivities at the Octopus field and each squad also played three matches.

Overall, more than 300 kids joined the fall festival, making the season-ending event another success.

Other headline-making events last week were the 14th

MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament, the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, 2010-2011 MISO Girls Basketball League, Gorilla Warfare Mixed Martial Arts' Into The Jungle II, 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup, 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run, and the opening of Week 1 of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

In the goodwill tournament, players from Korea swept the singles, doubles, and team events of the competition at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The visitors defeated Tinian, Saipan, and Korean players based here.

In the badminton tournament, the Pink Dynamites downed the Black Hawks in the championship match. The Yellow Idols then beat the Orange Shuttle Masters in the

consolation game.

In the MISO girls caging, Marianas High School ended Kagman High School's three-year reign in the varsity division after the Lady Dolphins clobbered the Lady Ayuyus in the finals, 70-33.

In the Gorilla Warfare Mixed Martial Arts' Into The Jungle II main event held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Tinian's Pete Sakisat led the winners list after prevailing over

Saipan's "Tabi" Jay Muna of Predator Combat Team via referee stoppage in the 3:31 of the first round.

In the QQ caging, Docomo Pacific and Ferrera Builders dueled in the best-of-three finals with the former sweeping the latter to take the inaugural championship.

The 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run had Mamiko Oshima-Berger and Keum Bae Ji as the overall female and male top finishers in the 4.2-mile race that drew 99 runners.

Then the week ended with the opening week of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, which attracted more than 100 participants.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Tinian bantamweight "GS" Pete Sakisat, right, remains undefeated in three fights after winning the finale GWMMA-Into The Jungle II main event bout over Saipan's "Tabi" Jay Muna last week at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Korean player in action during the 14th MATTA Goodwill Table Tennis Tournament last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings U8 team members line up before the start of their game against Paire during the NMIFA fall festival at the San Antonio Elementary School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the 26th Annual Mt. Tapochao Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot Fun Run run up Capital Hill.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Docomo Pacific's Elmer Esdrelon, right, challenges the defense of Ferrera Builders' Kae Bernardo during their playoff game in the QQ Cup caging last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Rachel Abrams tries to keep the ball away from a Kagman High School defender during their title game in the MISO caging last week at the MHS Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Colin Ramsey prepares to serve against Moris Villanueva during their U12 singles game in the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Docomo Pacific wins QQ Cup



Members of Docomo Pacific-Mobil pose for a photo after being crowned the first-ever QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup champion last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Docomo Pacific swept Ferrera Builders in the finals of the 2010 QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup after winning Game 2 of the best-of-three title series, 90-83, last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Docomo Pacific moved a win away from claiming the inaugural QQ Cup title after pulling off a come-from-behind 102-100 overtime win last Wednesday. In the series-clinching Game 2, Docomo dictated the tempo of the match in the opening canto and ward off Ferrera's repeated comeback bids to sweep the finals.

The eventual champion got to work early against the Builders and managed a two-possession advantage, 27-23, in the open-

ing quarter. Docomo center Edwin Santos led his team with six points in that period.

Then Docomo pulled away by double-digits, 50-35, after the second quarter, thanks largely in part to a pair of three-pointers and field goal from Elmer Esdreton.

The Builders were held to only 12 points in the second period, but made some halftime adjustments to stay in the game after the break.

Ferrera's Wowie Abuel

and Ponce Rasa delivered six markers apiece in the third quarter to help the Builders slice Docomo's lead to four, 63-67, heading into the last quarter. Docomo got into foul trouble in that period, allowing Ferrera to earn a living from the foul line and recover from a double-digit deficit.

In the fourth quarter, Docomo's defense tightened back, while Estolas started heating up on offense to foil Ferrera's bid for a deciding Game 3. Docomo thwarted Ferrera Builders'

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Home bets, visitors split in boys singles



Derek Okuhama, left, returns to Dylan Ackerman during their quarterfinals game in the boys U12 division of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts. Right, Tiffany Madlambayan in action against Julia Ishikawa in the girls U10 semis.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Home bets and visiting players split the four boys singles crowns at stake in Week 1 of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

Saipan's Christian Miller and Michael Ren topped the boys' U15 and U10 divisions, respectively, while Guam's Derek Okuhama and Malaysia's Ji Kent Kwah ruled the boys U12 and U18 age groups.

Miller needed three sets to thwart the hard-fighting Christian Penafiel of Guam in the

boys U15 finale yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis court. The 14-year-old Miller dropped the opening set, 5-7, but forced a deciding third set after bouncing back in the second with a commanding 6-1 win.

The third set was a back and forth affair and was played in extended minutes before Miller pulled off a thrilling 10-8 victory.

Miller advanced to the finals after beating fellow Saipan player Jake Lee in the semis, 6-1, 7-6. Penafiel foiled a

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CUC Power Plant tops govt dart league

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



CUC Power Plant finished the 2nd Bud light Lime Inter-Government Dart League's regular season in first place, edging AG's Piligro and DPW Trouble Shooters after last Friday's games.

Power Plant crushed PSS Na'Gupu, 12-3, to finish with 170 wins, 70 losses and a 0.7083 winning percentage. AG's Piligro (160-8) ended up 10 games behind in second place and the DPW Trouble Shooters (127-98) are seated third in the nine-team field.

Weekly notables included Ed Diaz of DPH Oh Yeah!, as he threw a 160 Hi-In, while Jayson John of AG's Piligro scored a 120 High-Out.

Power Plant's Joy Silva finished the regular season atop the individual rankings with

a weighted average of 60.65. Lionel Sanchez (58.57), Julian Camacho (58.17), Jayson John (55.37), Patrick Taitano (51.86), Jesse Iglecias (50.24), Bernard Santos (49.98), Jack Guerrero (49.80), Joe Mafnas (49.27) and Ed Diaz (48.95) rounded out the Top 10.

DPW Trouble Shooters 10, NMC-PROA 5

At USSP, the visiting DPW Trouble Shooters won three of the four singles 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, won both a partners Burma Half-It and partner 501 game, and took three cricket matches to secure the victory. DPW also added the final 1001 match to its total. DPW's Jack Guerrero won all six of his matches.

DYS Atdit 11, DPS Enforcers 4

At Naked Fish Bar & Grill, visiting Atdit won three of the four

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Traders badminton tourney winners feted

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

NMBA The Pink Dynamites received their championship trophy during last Friday's awards ceremony for the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Leading the Pink Dynamites in getting the coveted award was team captain Dick Guintu. Joining him on stage during the award ceremony were teammates Efren Cadac, Rommel Monserat, Kanata Omori, Joey Algenio, Toshiko Obata, Jerry Hibi, Marlene Peraja, Elma

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Members of the Pink Dynamites receive their championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 4th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament last Friday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO